

For Immediate Release

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**MASTERWORKS BY LINGNAN SCHOOL ARTISTS TO LEAD CHRISTIE'S
HONG KONG MODERN CHINESE PAINTINGS SALE THIS AUTUMN**



Gao Jianfu (1879-1951)
Tiger
Hanging scroll, ink and colour on paper
166 x 89 cm.
Estimate: HK\$4,000,000-5,000,000 (US\$516,100-645,200)

**Fine Modern Chinese Paintings
The Pine Moon Studio Collection
27 November 2006**

Hong Kong - Christie's Hong Kong, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, will present over 340 exceptional works by iconic artists of the 19th and 20th century in the *Fine Modern Chinese Paintings* sale on 27 November. On the same day, another 110 modern Chinese paintings from *The Pine Moon Studio Collection* will be offered and should not be missed by collectors of Chinese art.

THE LINGNAN SCHOOL:

Leading the sale is a selection of important works by masters from the Lingnan School, founded in the mid-Qing dynasty, of which key artists include Gao Jianfu, Gao Qifeng and Chen Shuren. They were amongst those who returned to China from their studies in Japan and advocated a new painting style that would break away from the conventions of classical Chinese paintings.



CHRISTIE'S

Rather than repeating the traditional themes, they encouraged artists to create vivid portrayed works through gaining inspiration from nature. Paintings stood out with brighter colours, stronger contrasts in between lightness and darkness, as well as crisper brushstrokes.

Gao Jianfu (1879-1951) and Gao Qifeng (1889-1933)

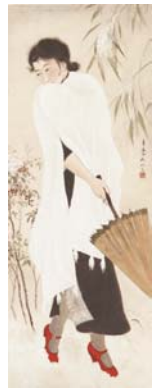
The star lot, *Tiger* by Lingnan's pioneering master Gao Jianfu (lot 888, estimate: HK\$4,000,000-5,000,000/ US\$516,100-645,200), is an excellent example of this novel artistic approach. The roaring beast standing in a swamp symbolizes the noble spirit of the artist himself, who at the time was brave and determined enough to advocate ground-breaking ideas whilst withstanding criticism from the traditional art scene.

Also on offer is *Landscape in Guilin* by Gao Qifeng (lot 890, estimate: HK\$4,000,000-5,000,000/ US\$516,100-645,200). Gao Qifeng is Gao Jianfu's brother and had the same artistic concepts. Qifeng himself had a particularly keen interest in landscape paintings. His works are smooth, sensible yet poetic. *Landscape in Guilin*, painted in 1932, best demonstrates Qifeng's brilliant technique in weaving Impressionist style brushstrokes into Chinese ink painting that was then richly applied in layers.

Fang Rending (1901-1975)

Instead of landscape and floral paintings, the second-generation Lingnan artist Fang Rending is acclaimed for depicting everyday life. The artist himself had a deep affection for his fellow countrymen. Through thoroughly observing people from all walks of life, he then created an array of meticulous works.

Eight paintings by Fang Rending from the private collection of the artist's family are presented in this sale. *Treading in the Snow* (lot 901, estimate: HK\$1,000,000–1,500,000/ US\$129,000–193,500) was painted in 1931, the year the Japanese army invaded Manchuria which changed the course of the history of Modern China. On a winter's day, the artist saw a student of Gao Jianfu walking gracefully towards the Chunshui Academy of Art in a midst of falling snow. Inspired by this lyrical scene, Fang asked his wife to model and recreate the elegant posture of that lady in order to execute this captivating work.



Another highlight is *On the Road in Shanxi Province* (lot 907, estimate: HK\$550,000–750,000/ US\$71,000–96,800). In 1964, at the age 63, Fang made a trip to Shanxi province. On his way, the painter produced this work depicting a young lady holding a book and riding blissfully on a small donkey. The beautiful countryside and folklife in Northern China come alive before the viewer's eyes.

Zhao Shao'ang (1905-1998)

A student of Gao Qifeng, Zhao Shao'ang was especially talented at drawing flowers, birds and landscapes. Combining the essence of both Japanese and Western art, Zhao's works are sophisticated and charming in with dynamic colours. On offer in this sale is *Tiger* (lot 898, Estimate: HK\$300,000–400,000/ US\$38,700-51,600).

MASTERS OF CHINESE PAINTINGS:

Other rare offerings this season include important pieces by esteemed masters such as Zhang Daqian, Lin Fengmian and Wu Guanzhong whose works are highly coveted by Chinese art lovers.

Zhang Daqian (1899-1983)

Since the early Qing dynasty, most Chinese landscape paintings were executed in the classical 'Four Wang' style. However, in his *Snow Scenery* (lot 1122, estimate: HK\$800,000-1,000,000/ US\$103,200-129,000), Zhang Daqian meticulously applied the extravagant drawing techniques that are reminiscent of the paintings of the early Tang dynasty, bringing out an inspirational flavour that rejuvenated the art scene of the time.

Using his unique and stunning ink-splashing technique, Zhang has also produced some of the most creative landscape paintings in modern China that became famous as the 'New National Paintings'. The artist mixed together condensed ink, ink wash, colours and water; then spread it on the paper to form mountains and landscapes. No trace of brushstrokes can be found in such visually-stunning works. A superb example is *Flowing Clouds in the Spring Mountain* (lot 983, estimate: HK\$300,000-HK\$400,000/ US\$38,700-51,600). Equally important is *Mountain Village* (lot 962, estimate: HK\$2,500,000-3,500,000/ US\$322,600-451,600). The delicate mixture of water, ink, and pigment come together to form this magnificent and overpowering landscape. Details such as the roofs and the sails are vividly outlined by a few simple but delicate dots and strokes.

Lin Fengmian (1900-1991)

Autumn Landscape by Lin Fengmian (lot 1031, estimate: HK\$800,000-1,000,000/ US\$103,200-129,000) is a further highlight. This painting comes from Mr. Kopp in Denmark, who was once the Captain of S/S Heinrich Jessen owned by Jebsen & Co. When Mr. Kopp was travelling in Shanghai, he purchased four paintings directly from Lin when visiting his studio. Afterwards, Mr. Kopp headed back to Hong Kong and sold two paintings to Mr. Jacob Jebsen, the Director of the shipping company; while another work was sold to a Spanish shipping clerk. The current work on offer was the remaining painting that Mr. Kopp has himself kept in good condition since he left Hong Kong and returned to Denmark in 1963. The bog oakwood frame was handmade by a local carpenter in Shanghai.

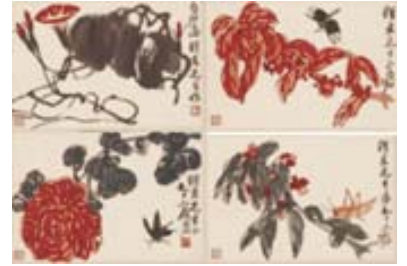
Wu Guanzhong (Born in 1919)

Lotus Pond by Wu Guanzhong (lot 1081, estimate: HK\$400,000-500,000/ US\$51,600-64,500) is a beautiful and appealing work. Depicting the broken stems of the withered lotus swaying in the wind and the trembling water in the pond, the painting leads the viewer towards an easy contemplation. Wu also made use of certain elements from Western painting - including dots, lines and contrasting light and shadow that further enhance the aesthetics of this demure work.

THE PINE MOON STUDIO COLLECTION:

The Pine Moon Studio Collection to be offered on the same day consists of 110 modern Chinese paintings owned by a prominent Asian private collector. Highlights include works of 'gongbi' technique, floral paintings and landscapes with traditional 'blue-green' style.

Of particular note in the collection are *Chinese Crabapple and Bird* by Chen Peiqiu (b. 1922) (lot 1174, estimate: HK\$80,000-120,000/ US\$10,300-15,500), *Landscape* by Xie Zhiliu (1910-1997) (lot 1175, estimate: HK\$200,000-300,000/ US\$25,800-38,700), *Landscape in the Manner of Guoxi* by Chen Shaomei (1909-1954) (lot 1185, estimate: HK\$150,000-200,000/ US\$19,400-25,800), *Bamboo and Bird* by Yu Fei'an (1889-1959) (lot 1260, estimate: HK\$200,000-300,000/ US\$25,800-38,700), *Magnolia and Magpie* by Huang Junbi (1898-1991) (lot 1273, estimate: HK\$120,000-150,000/ US\$15,500-19,400), and *Flowers and Insects* by Qi Baishi (1863-1957) (lot 1189, estimate: HK\$600,000-800,000/ US\$77,400-103,200 – *image right*).



Previews:

Shanghai	Portman Ritz Carlton Hotel	1-2 November
Hangzhou	Hyatt Regency Hangzhou	5-6 November
Beijing	St. Regis	8-9 November
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	18-19 November
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	24-26 November

Auction:

Fine Modern Chinese Paintings - 27 November 2006, 2:30pm
The Pine Moon Studio Collection - 27 November 2006, 7:00pm
Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

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More information about Christie's sales of *Fine Modern Chinese Paintings* and *The Pine Moon Studio Collection* can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.