

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

佳士得香港有限公司

For Immediate Release

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**MASTERPIECES BY MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PAINTERS TO
BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG AUTUMN SALE**

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Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings

27-28 November 2005

Hong Kong - Christie's Hong Kong Autumn sale of *Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings* will take place on 27 and 28 November. A total of 412 important works by the celebrated Chinese artists of the 19th and 20th century will be presented in two catalogues.

Taking centre-stage is a selection of works by Xu Beihong (1895-1953) consigned from collections in Singapore and Malaysia. In 1937, when the Sino-Japanese war broke out, Xu held exhibitions and sold many of his paintings in Southeast Asia to raise money for the war fund. *Awakening Lion* (Lot 552, estimate: HK\$1,500,000-2,000,000/US\$193,500-258,100) and *Two Cranes Standing on Pine* (Lot 554, estimate: HK\$800,000-1,000,000/US\$103,200-129,000) are the superb examples of the artist's work of that period.

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Another rare offering is a set of two portraits of *The Empress Wu Zetian* by Fu Baoshi (1904-1965) (Lot 922, estimate: HK\$4,000,000-5,000,000/US\$516,100-645,100). Both portraits were illustrated in a theatre transcript written by the famous scholar Guo Moruo (1892-1978).

An album of ten leaves, *Flowers and Ducks* (Lot 741, estimate: HK\$4,000,000-5,000,000/US\$516,100-645,100) by Shi Lu (1919-1982) depicts various flowers in full bloom and masterly demonstrates Shi's free-style brush technique and a passionate execution reminiscent of Van Gogh's.

Zhang Daqian(1899-1983), one of the undisputed masters of the 20th century, is celebrated for his splashed-coloured landscape. The special technique works brilliantly on both large scroll such as *Water Bamboo Village* (Lot 700, estimate: HK\$3,500,000-4,000,000/US\$451,600-516,100) as well as smaller works like *Autumn Mountains in Pomo Style* (Lot 837, estimate: HK\$350,000-450,000/US\$45,200-58,100).

The sale will also offer seven works by Lin Fengmian(1900-1991) from the private collection of Mr. Linus Cheung. Cheung is a successful business leader and renowned collector in Hong Kong with a discerning eye for art. He supports the arts with the same zeal that characterizes his business activities as reflected by his large collection of Chinese paintings. *Ladies* (Lot 684, estimate: HK\$1,500,000-2,000,000/US\$193,000-258,100), *Opera Figure* (Lot 682, estimate: HK\$1,200,000-1,800,000/ US\$154,800-232,300) and *Still Life* (Lot 681, estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000/US\$129,000-193,500) are the highlights of the collection.

Twelve paintings by Professor Jao Tsung-I (born 1917) will be featured in the sale. Jao is a world acclaimed scholar and the chair professor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong University. He was awarded the French Prix Stanislas Julien for his outstanding achievement in Chinese studies. Started painting and calligraphy at the age of ten, Jao's achievement in the field is far-reaching. Exhibitions of his works were held all over Asia. Of particular interest in the collection are *Four Mountains* (Lot 647, estimate: HK\$1,500,000-2,000,000/US\$193,500-258,100) and *Scenery of Chao Zhao* (Lot 643, estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000/US\$129,000-193,500).

Also featured are several works by Wu Guanzhong (born 1919), including *Quiet Lake and Boats* (Lot 675, estimate: HK\$500,000-700,000/US\$64,500-90,300) which depicts little birds flying over a quiet lake with two empty boats moored next to a willow field, creating a scene that bathes in a calm and serene atmosphere.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Beijing	St. Regis Beijing	November 5 — 6
Shanghai	The Westin Shanghai	November 8 — 9
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	November 19 — 20
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	November 25 — 27

Auction:

Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings
27 November at 4:00pm & 28 November at 9:30am
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

More information about Christie's sale of Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings 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.

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Images available on request

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