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An Early Preview:
Christie’s Hong Kong Spring 2010 Auctions
May 28 – June 2

Hong Kong - Christie’s Hong Kong Spring 2010 sales will take place from May 28 to June 2 and will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The 12 sales will span a spectrum of seven collecting categories – from Chinese paintings, ceramics and works of art, to iconic works from modern masters and cutting-edge contemporary works by artists throughout Asia, as well as fine wine, magnificent jewellery and important watches. An overview of each sale and select highlights are below. FTP links to all images and captions are located at the end of the document.

**Full details and information on these sales will be released in the coming weeks.**

CHRISTIE’S HONG KONG SPRING 2010 AUCTIONS
Auctions: May 28 – June 2 | Public viewing: Begins May 26
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Friday, 28 May
10am Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy
2.30pm The Songde Tang Collection of Chinese Modern Paintings
4pm Fine Chinese Modern Paintings

Saturday, 29 May
10.30am Finest and Rarest Wines including the ‘Liquid Gold Collection – Three Centuries of Château d’Yquem’
& 2.30pm Asian Contemporary Art & Chinese 20th Century Art (Evening Sale)
7pm Asian Contemporary Art & Chinese 20th Century Art (Evening Sale)

Sunday, 30 May
10:30am Southeast Asian Modern and Contemporary Art
2:30pm Chinese 20th Century Art (Day Sale)
4:30pm Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale)

Monday, 31 May
10am Important Chinese Rhinoceros Horn Carvings from The Songzhutang Collection Part II
10.45am The Imperial Sale, Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art
& 2:30pm

Tuesday, 1 June
2pm Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale

Wednesday, 2 June
10.30am & 2:30pm Important Watches including the Millennium Collection
The Fine Chinese Modern Paintings sale offers a wide array of works that date from the late 19th and 20th century to the present day. Artists featured in this category include Fu Baoshi, Zhang Daqian, Qi Baishi and Xu Beihong, as well as others who made a significant contribution to the different schools within Chinese modern art history.

Leading the sale is Zhang Daqian’s (1899-1983) *Lady Holding Lotus* (Fig.1, estimate: HK$2,000,000-3,000,000/US$ 257,000-385,600). This impressive figurative painting was created in 1954 when Zhang Daqian was living in São Paulo, Brazil. His figure paintings matured following his two trips to Dunhuang, where he carefully copied and studied the murals. Zhang once said that painting should not achieve too close a likeness to the real object, yet there should not be deliberate unlikeness. To convey natural beauty, the artist must strike a balance between likeness and unlikeness.

The Songdetang collection comes from a notable connoisseur and passionate collector of Chinese Modern Paintings who started collecting in the early 1950’s. The collection reflects his deep interest in the social situation in which the works were created. Through Shuai Mengchu, a well-known and respected art dealer of Qi Baishi’s paintings in Hong Kong at the time, the Songdetang collection built up an impressive number of Qi’s top works.

The collection comprises paintings representative of early 20th century China by artists such as Qi Baishi, Fu Baoshi and Xu Beihong to name but a few. Christie’s is honoured to present such monumental pieces for our upcoming sale. Over 20 important works by Qi Baishi will be featured, which reflects the collector’s discerning and impeccable taste. The artworks provide a running commentary on the political and artistic influences of the time.

One of the leading highlights from Qi Baishi (1863-1957) in this sale is *Amaranth, Crickets, Persimmon and Peaches* (Fig.2, estimate: HK$800,000-1,000,000/US$103,200-129,000). It is a brightly coloured piece filled with symbols of well-being and peace and is dedicated to a well-known art connoisseur in China, Xu Bojiao (1913-2002), a native of Zhejiang Province.

Another highlight in this sale is Fu Baoshi’s (1904-1965) *Scholar and Musicians* (Fig.3, estimate: HK$3,000,000-4,000,000/US$387,100 - 516,100), which, with great historical accuracy, depicts a prominent scholar from the Eastern Jin dynasty (317-420 AD) named Xie An, listening to musicians playing classical Chinese string instruments.

A preview of selected highlights will be held in Singapore from April 30th to May 1st at Artspace @Helutrans, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore.
The Classical section consists of exemplary works by artists active before the late Qing Dynasty (19th century). Calligraphy and painting are not only some of the most fascinating Chinese art forms, but also highly indicative of the depth and richness of Chinese culture, from Chinese literature, philosophy, historiography and religion to artistic technique. Each era has its own distinct style.

One of the highlights is Shen Zhou’s (1427-1509) **Scholar Travelling in Wintry Mountains** (Fig.4, estimate: HK$3,000,000-4,000,000/US$387,100-516,100) Shen Zhou (1427–1509), also known as Qi Nan, was an active Chinese painter in the Ming Dynasty. Together with Wen Zhengming, Tang Yin, and Qiu Yin, Shen Zhou was considered one of the four most important artists in 15th century China. They are representatives and were pioneers of the Wu School of Chinese paintings.

As an artist active in the Ming dynasty, the quality of Shen Zhou’s work secured his name in the history of Chinese landscape paintings. Zhou’s paintings reveal his concern with preserving aesthetics of earlier times and a concern for nature in all its manifestations.

**Finest and Rarest Wines including the ‘Liquid Gold Collection – Three Centuries of Château d’Yquem’**

*Saturday, 29 May*

Christie’s Hong Kong Wine sales have demonstrated unrivalled results since their return in 2008. In 2009, Christie’s Hong Kong had an average lot value of HK$134,000 (US$17,300) per lot – the highest for any auction house operating in Asia. This season, Christie’s will once again offer an outstanding range of only the Finest and Rarest wines from the world’s classic wine-producing regions.

**Finest and Rarest Wines** on May 28th will present Asia’s most discerning collectors and connoisseurs with a superb array of Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne from elite vintages and impeccable cellars, with excellent provenance. One of the highlights is an extensive selection of Château Lafite-Rothschild which includes very rare Double Magnums, Jeroboams and Imperials of 1959, Jeroboams of 1961 and various formats of the stellar 1982 vintage. Among many other outstanding vintages, this sale provides collectors with a superb opportunity to acquire the finest wines.

**Asian Contemporary Art & Chinese 20th Century Art Evening Sale**

*Saturday, 29 May, 7pm*

**Chinese 20th Century Art Day Sale**

*Sunday, 30 May*

**Asian Contemporary Art Day Sale**

*Sunday, 30 May*

In 2009, Christie’s witnessed strong recovery and continued growth in the market for Chinese 20th Century and Asian Contemporary Art, with numerous world record prices achieved in the Spring and Autumn sale seasons. This May, Christie’s Hong Kong continues to feature exceptional works from established and emerging artists, offering a dynamic cross-section of one of the most exciting categories in the contemporary art world.

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**Chinese 20th Century Art**

**Two Spotted Horses** (Fig.5, estimate: HK$8,000,000–12,000,000/US$1,025,600–1,538,500) stands out as one of the highlights of Sanyu’s animal-themed paintings from the 1950s which display Sanyu’s unique fusion of Western and Eastern aesthetics. The artist delineates space and depth by employing the Western theory of colour fields, while conveying an Eastern ambience of tranquility that also embodies the hidden energies of life, as well as spiritual beauty.
Another highlight of the sale is Zao Wou-ki’s 14.3.59 (Fig.6, estimate: HK$10,000,000–15,000,000/US$1,282,100–1,923,100). Zao’s paintings from the late 1950s are among the artist’s most sought after works and are rarely seen on the public market. 14.3.59 is recognised as one of the most important - and largest - works from this period. It has never been offered at auction and has been in a European private collection since the 1960s. Embracing the finest elements of Yuan and Song dynasty landscape painting, Zao’s work strives to find new meanings from a traditional aesthetic, while also incorporating Western techniques to express colour, light and shadow. The result is an entirely new style of abstract expressionism which captures the subtle changes of space, nature, light and darkness, and creates a world of vivid majesty.

Christie’s currently holds World Auction Records for the above two artists.

Asian Contemporary Art

Christie’s Hong Kong is proud to present works from the collection of Kathy & Lawrence Schiller of Southern California. Mr. Schiller is an award-winning photographer, Emmy-winning motion picture producer and director, and best-selling author. Mrs. Schiller has been a Hollywood studio photographer for over 30 years. Their relationship with China spans four decades, and Mr. and Mrs. Schiller will be donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the collection to a charity organisation, the Animals Asia Foundation (http://www.animalsasia.org).

Works from the collection represent most of the cross-currents underpinning Chinese contemporary art. Highlights include a monumental Mask painting by Zeng Fanzhi (Fig.7, estimate: HK$7,000,000-10,000,000/US$897,400-1,282,100). Zeng’s iconic “Mask” series embodies the existential crisis that faced the artist’s generation as China modernised rapidly in the 1990s. Painted in 2000, Zeng’s “Mask” depicts the subject literally at the pinnacle of success. Well dressed in a three-piece suit, he is a vision of urbane composure. Zeng Fanzhi undermines the subject’s desired persona by exaggerating the tones and texture of his flesh, suggesting hidden anxiety suppressed beneath the inscrutable social mask.

Christie’s currently holds the World Auction Record for Zeng Fanzhi.

Further highlights of the collection are two rare early Zhang Xiaogang’s Bloodline paintings from 1997 (Fig.8, estimate: HK$ 2,500,000-3,500,000/US$320,500-448,700). Coincidentally reunited in the Schillers’ collection, the works were painted on the same day and will now be sold together as one lot. Zhang is best-known for his “Bloodline” series that draws on photo studio portraits individuals might have had taken during China’s Communist period. These works explore the emotional terrain of China’s collective past. Zhang Xiaogang’s conceptual realism adds emotional depth to his portraits of anonymous comrades. Theses two paintings resonate together, suggesting the unnatural isolation of the figures. For Zhang, the pressures to conform politically, sometimes at the expense of family and personal relationships, was the formative experience of the Communist era that would haunt his generation for years to come.

Southeast Asian Modern and Contemporary Art

Sunday, 30 May

The Spring 2010 Southeast Asian Modern and Contemporary Art sale brings together the art of the region in a selection that transcends time, geography and historical boundaries; reflecting the cultural diversity of Asia.

One of the highlights is Sebatas Aroma (Limited to scents) by Indonesian contemporary artist, Rudi Mantofani (Fig.9, estimate: HK$320,000–480,000/US$41,000–61,500). It is a captivating illustration of the painter’s practice of distilling poignant images into visual metaphors. Oversized and dramatically set against a monochrome background,
Important Chinese Rhinoceros Horn Carvings from The Songzhutang Collection Part II

Monday, 31 May


The highlights include themes which are rarely seen on rhinoceros horn carvings, including an exceptionally rare libation cup which depicts boys occupied with various playful pursuits in a landscape scene (Fig.10, estimate: HK$3,500,000-4,000,000/US$ US$450,000-520,000), dated to the late Ming period, early 17th century. As early as the Southern Song period, the imagery of boys at play, set in a garden scene, became a favoured theme in paintings popularised by the Southern Song court artist, Su Hanchen, who was active during early 12th century. The theme of ‘a hundred boys’ became symbolic of progeny and fulfillment of Confucian ideals in education, and the advancement of sons. As such, this type of pictorial image was propagated on a wide range of decorative objects throughout the late Ming to early Qing periods, including porcelain, jade, textile and lacquerware.

Further examples include an early Qing dynasty, late 17th century libation cup, superbly carved in high relief to depict eight stallions roaming carefree in a landscape scene (Fig.11, estimate: HK$2,500,000-3,000,000/US$320,000-390,000). This theme was inspired by the eight legendary horses that once belonged to King Mu of the Western Zhou dynasty who gave each horse a fanciful name such as ‘Beyond Earth’ and ‘Rush by Night.’

The Imperial Sale, Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

Monday, 31 May

For over a decade Christie’s Hong Kong has held a special sale during the Spring auction season of Imperial Chinese Ceramics and Works of art, dedicated to exquisite pieces that were either made for the Emperors or for use in the imperial palaces. The imperial theme this year emphasises works produced for Qing dynasty Emperor Yongzheng (reigned 1722-1735), who was renowned for his refined taste in Art and his stringent quality requirements for items that were sent to the Qing Court.

Leading highlights include a pair of magnificent famille rose eight peaches dishes, which exemplify the finest porcelain decoration of the Qing dynasty (Fig.12, estimate: HK$8,000,000-10,000,000/ US$1,000,000 – 1,300,000). This stunning pair of dishes was once in the collection of the Woolworths department store heiress, Barbara Hutton, before being in the possession of the Hong Kong shipping magnet, T. Y. Chao. Decorated with a total of eight peaches, growing from flowering branches and accompanied by five bats, this design forms the auspicious *wu fu* which provide rebus both for good fortune and for the Five Blessings of longevity, health, love of virtue and a peaceful end to one’s life.

An extremely rare vase, decorated with stylised Indian lotus flowers (Fig.13, estimate: HK$5,000,000-7,000,000/US$650,000-900,000) rendered Mantofani’s perfume bottle is a perfect symbol of vanity and the concern with appearance in contemporary society. A landscape appears, surrealistically, inside the bottle, juxtaposed against the bare landscape that lies on the outside. This is an evocative illustration of the contrast between nature and artifice. What emerges from Mantofani’s paintings is not only the truth about an object but more importantly its relation to the philosophy of everyday life.

A preview of highlights will be held in Singapore from April 30th to May 1st at Artspace @Helutrans, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore.
in the *doucai* palette, is a further highlight. Designed with juxtaposing enamel colours, the *doucai* palette creates a subtle decoration and was another form of enamelling technique that found much favour with Emperor Yongzheng.

**Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale**

*Tuesday, 1 June*

Once again the eyes of the jewellery world will be drawn to Hong Kong on June 1, 2010. Highlights will be led by ‘The Sensational Six’ an exceptional selection of six superb gems, each one the best of its type. One of the six is an exquisite Kashmir sapphire and diamond bracelet, *circa 1960, by Cartier* (Fig.14a & 14b, estimate: HK$24,000,000 - 40,000,000 / US$3,000,000-5,000,000), comprising nine finely-proportioned cushion-cut Kashmir sapphires. The central gemstone weighs 10.52 carats and is flanked by a series of four other stones that weigh between 6.10 to 4.16 carats. All nine sapphires are equal in their beauty, each as saturated and brilliant as the other. This bracelet is the rarest of its kind. Its beauty is further heightened by alternating marquise-cut diamonds. Highly collectable, this exquisite Cartier bracelet is of unsurpassed beauty and remains a true rarity in the market today.

Details of the five other sensational gems will be revealed to press on March 29 in Hong Kong. The sale will also include a fine selection of period, modern and contemporary jewellery by Boucheron, Bulgari, Cartier, Wallace Chan, Etcetera, Van Cleef & Arpels, Mikimoto, Scavia, Tiffany, Harry Winston and other famous makers.

Christie’s currently holds the World Auction Record for a sapphire.

**Important Watches including the Millennium Collection**

*Wednesday, 2 June*

Following the success of the Autumn 2009 sale, Christie’s is delighted to present a dynamic selection of Watches in our upcoming Spring sale, celebrating the aesthetics and innovation of modern watch-making. Highlights include *The Millennium Collection*, assembled in the past decade by a passionate connoisseur with an eye for the finest in horological design. The Millennium Collection was developed with a focus on the intricacies of mechanical complications, with key examples such as the *Jaeger-LeCoultre Gyrotourbillon 1, Audemars Piguet Jules Audemars Grand Sonnerie Dynamograph* and the *Richard Mille RM002*.

The *Gyrotourbillon 1 by Jaeger-LeCoultre* (Fig.15, estimate: HK$1,550,000-2,350,000/US$200,000–300,000) once again demonstrates the art of watch-making and exemplifies the collector’s fascination with the collaboration between engineering and design. In the heart of this partnership of contemporary style and mechanics, is the Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 177 which combines the world’s first spherical multi-axis tourbillon, a running equation of time, 8 days power reserve and a perpetual calendar equipped with four retrograde hands. This exclusive masterpiece consists of more than 600 parts and, due to the complexity, only 75 pieces were made with a limited annual production of up to 20 pieces.
Images and Captions to Download:

Finest and Rarest Wines including the ‘Liquid Gold Collection – Three Centuries of Château d’Yquem’
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/Wines/Images/

Fine Chinese Modern Paintings
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/ChinesePaintings/CMP/Images/

The Songde Tang Collection of Chinese Modern Paintings
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/ChinesePaintings/Songdetang/Images/

Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/ChinesePaintings/CCP/Images/

Asian Contemporary Art & Chinese 20th Century Art
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/AsianContempArt/Images/

Southeast Asian Modern and Contemporary Art
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/SoutheastAsianArt/Images/

Important Chinese Rhinoceros Horn Carvings from the Songzhutang Collection Part II
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/WorksOfArt/Rhinohorn/Images/

The Imperial Sale, Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/WorksOfArt/Ceramics&WOA/Images/

Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/Jewels/Images/

Important Watches including The Millennium Collection
http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/Watches/Images/

About Christie's

Christie’s, the world’s leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2009 that totalled £2.1 billion/$3.3 billion. Christie’s is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie’s conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie’s offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from $200 to over $80 million. Christie’s has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie’s has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai. For more information, please visit www.christies.com.