#### For Immediate Release

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#### Contact:

Yvonne So (Hong Kong) Gillian Leung (Hong Kong) Belinda Chen (Beijing)

+852 2978 9919 +852 2978 6736 +8610 65006517

vso@christies.com gleung@christies.com bchen@christies.com

## Unveiling a Century of Asian Art History, Christie's Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art Spring Auctions

Hong Kong – Christie's will hold its Asian 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Contemporary Art sales on 28 and 29 May in Hong Kong, offering more than 490 works of art totalling over HK\$400 million/US\$51 million. Presenting 100 years of Asian art history from classic masterpieces by renowned early 20th century artists to iconic works by contemporary masters through a wide array of painting styles, the exhibitions will allow collectors a deeper look into Eastern and Western artistic values.

## Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art (Evening Sale)

Saturday, 28 May, 7pm

Saleroom 1, Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

The world centre of 20th century art has been in Paris or New York, and now all eyes fall on Asia. Christie's has chosen Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art as the title for the evening sale, highlighting the distinct aesthetic practices and traditions of Asian art that have continued into the modern and contemporary era. Through the diverse aspects of Asian art and demonstrating how Eastern aesthetics have evolved through increased engagement with the West and global art forms, Christie's hopes to enable a better understanding of Asian art and its place in global art history.

The evening sale will mark the first time that works by Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita, one of the greatest 20th century Japanese painters from the School of Paris and well-known to both collectors of Impressionist and Modern Art and Japanese Art, are auctioned in Hong Kong. Foujita is widely known as one of the first Japanese artists to enter the Western painting market. Christie's is excited to offer three of his iconic works in the Evening sale. Two of the paintings feature loving portraits of the Virgin Mary. Painted in 1962, they reflect Foujita's Catholic faith following his conversion in 1959. They perfectly demonstrate an Asian artist's adoption of Western religious imagery which he handles with the delicacy of Japanese ink tradition, and he infuses it with his own distinct vision.



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Lot 1001

### Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita (Tsuguharu Foujita, 1886-1968) Madone (2 figures)

signed 'L. Foujita' in English (lower middle); signed, inscribed and numbered 'Foujita VIII 62' in English (on the reverse); inscribed 'Collection Mme Kimiyo Foujita' in English (on the stretcher)

ink, oil and gold foil on canvas 61.2 x 38.8 cm. (24 x 15 1/4 in.)

Painted in 1962

Estimate: HK\$1,500,000 - 2,500,000 / US\$192,300 - 320,500



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Lot 1002

Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita (TSUGUHARU FOUJITA/ TSUGUHARU FUJITA, 1886-1968)

Madone (3 Figures)

signed 'L. Foujita' in French (lower middle); signed, inscribed and numbered 'Foujita VIII 62' in French (on the reverse); inscribed 'Collection Mme Kimiyo Foujita 33' in French (on the stretcher)

ink, oil and gold foil on canvas 61.2 x 38.8 cm. (24 x 15 1/4 in.)

Painted in 1962

Estimate: HK\$1,500,000 - 2,500,000 / US\$192,300 - 320,500

More highlights from Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art (Evening Sale), please see Page 3-7.

### Chinese 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art (Day Sale)

Sunday, 29 May, 10.30am

Saleroom 1, Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Chinese 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art (Day Sale) features works by major masters from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and is divided into three themes, portraiture, landscape, and abstraction. One of the highlights is **Christ, Remorse**, a masterpiece by **Lin Fengmian**, a Chinese painter from the first-generation of artists who studied in France. In this painting depicting Jesus' death, Lin has placed all expressive emphasis on the Virgin Mary's sorrow and suffering, a development from the traditional compositional arrangement, reflecting the artist's own psychological reinterpretation of the narrative.



Lot 1108 LIN FENGMIAN (1900-1991) *Christ, Remorse* signed in Chinese (lower right) ink and colour on paper 70 x 67 cm. (27 1/2 x 26 3/8 in.)

Painted circa 1930s-1940s one seal of the artist

Estimate: HK\$400,000 - 600,000 / US\$51,300 - 76,900

More highlights from Chinese 20th Century Art (Day Sale), please see Page 7-8.

### Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale)

Sunday, 29 May, 2.30pm

Saleroom 1, Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale) is notable for the diversity of Asian contemporary art, showcasing a variety of subjects, media, techniques and expressions. Mao Xuhui's Patriarch Series (image below) uses a high-backed chair as a formidable and oppressive symbol for Chinese society's reverence towards and fear of the patriarchal status quo. Li Songsong's works are exemplified by their complex textures. As with his monumental Khmer Rouge, Li penetrates historical episodes with layers of analysis, revealing the obscured story via purposeful divisions of surface images. In Peach Blossom & Green Dog, Zhou Chunya deliberately inflates the size of the green dog and peach blossoms, challenging our visual senses with potent colour contrasts and mismatched proportions. This canvas, encompassing all three major symbols of his past series – the human figure, the green dog and peach blossoms – is probably one of his proudest and finest works. Liu Ye's inspirations originate from the universe of Hans Christian Andersen whose books he read as a child. Liu wants to revisit Andersen's worldview,

reinterpreting his innocent but often haunting stories as parallels for modern life. Replacing traditional media with gunpowder, one of China's four greatest inventions, **Cai Guo Qiang's** works have become mainstays of the contemporary art world, with his breath-taking and – literally – explosive fusion of Eastern philosophy and contemporary art. **Suh Do-Ho** questions the nature of national identity with his installation of an elegantly styled gown, woven completely with military dog tags.

Lot 1339

### MAO XUHUI (B. 1956)

# Patriarch Series (Armchair; Patriarch in the Armchair; & Armchair under the Red Flag)

each signed in Chinese; dated '1995' (lower right); signed in Chinese; inscribed '84.5 x 65 cm.' '97 x 70 cm' (on the reverse of Patriarch in the Armchair; & Patriarch under Red Flag, respectively)

oil on canvas, triptych

96 x 70.8 cm. (37 7/8 x 27 7/8 in.); 83.3 x 63.8 cm. (32 7/8 x 25 1/8 in.); & 79 x 69.2 cm. (31 1/8 x 27 1/4 in.)

Painted in 1995

Estimate: HK\$1,500,000 - 2,000,000 / US\$192,300 - 256,400



More highlights from Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale), please see Page 8-9.

#### **OTHER SELECT HIGHLIGHTS:**

## Other Select Highlights from Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art (Evening Sale)

Sanyu is among the first generation of Chinese artists to study in France, having immersed himself in Western art practice in an effort to reinvigorate China's own long painting tradition. His works have been among the most sought after for artists of his generation. A highlight of the evening sale, Sanyu's Pink Plum Blossoms & Green Branches is making its first appearance in the public market after residing in the hands of a European private collector for nearly half a century. The foreground of this work is dominated by the bold criss-crossing of branches eliciting a flavour of calligraphy, while the vacant background is strictly Eastern in spirit. His sophisticated use of colour exudes the simplicity of traditional Chinese lacquer ware and rosewood furniture, culminating in a masterpiece that draws from the heart of both Eastern calligraphic art and Western colour theory, and which may challenge the world auction record held by the artist.



Lot 1004

SANYU (CHANG YU, 1901-1966)

Pink Plum Blossoms & Green Branches

signed in Chinese; signed 'SANYU' in French (lower left of the right panel) each: 119.6 x 59.8 cm. (47 x 23  $^{1}\!/_{2}$  in.)

overall: 119.6 x 180 cm. (47 x 70 3/4 in.)

Painted in 1963

Estimate: HK\$15,000,000 - 20,000,000 / US\$1,923,100 - 2,564,100



Liao Chi Ch'un is part of Taiwan's first generation of artists to emphasize Western painting techniques. Using vivid and bold colours, Liao reinterprets landscapes, rendering his subjects via his personal perceptions - his own lyrical sense of beats and rhythms.

Lot 1007

## LIAO CHI CH'UN (LIAO JICHUN, 1902-1976)

The Seashore

inscribed, signed and dated in Chinese (on the reverse) oil on canvas  $45 \times 53.3$  cm.  $(17 \ 3/4 \times 21 \text{ in.})$ 

Painted in 1973

Estimate: HK\$2,500,000 - 3,500,000 / US\$ 320,500 - 448,700



Ju Ming, with his highly expressive carving skills, has modernized the language of Chinese sculpture. He became the first Taiwanese sculptor to enter the international art market with his dynamic and abstract *Taichi series*. The *taichi* theme is animated by the visual effects of darkness versus light (or *yin* versus *yang*) achieved through the artist's vigorous engraving, chopping and chiselling. The results are thoroughly modern, abstracted forms that perfectly embody the powerful energy of this ancient martial art.

Lot 1012 JU MING (ZHU MING, B. 1938)

*Taichi Series - Sparring* signed in Chinese; dated '91' (engraved on each work)

a pair of two wood sculptures 82 x 56 x 126 cm. (32 1/4 x 22 x 49 5/8 in.); & 144 x 61 x 135 cm. (56 3/4 x 24 x 53

1/8 in.) Executed in 1991

Estimate: HK\$14,000,000 - 18,000,000 / US\$ 1,794,900 - 2,307,700



Based in Paris since 1948, Zao Wou-Ki first gained fame in the West with his distinct approach to abstract expressionism. Zao's hallmark technique, contrasting dry and wet brushwork and alternating dense with airy mark-making, recreates the essence of traditional Chinese landscape painting in Western oil medium. Zao successfully combines a Chinese and Western abstract aesthetic, his vivid colours suggesting the revelation of the natural world in perpetual flux.

Lot 1013

## ZAO WOU-KI (ZHAO WUJI, B. 1920)

signed 'Wou-ki ZAO' in Chinese & Pinyin (lower right); signed 'ZAO WOU-Ki' in Pinyin; dated '14.11.63.' (on the reverse)

oil on canvas

131 x 196 cm. (51 1/2 x 77 1/8 in.)

Painted in 1963

Estimate: HK\$12,000,000 - 16,000,000 / US\$1,538,500 - 2,051,300



Lot 1015

## ZAO WOU-KI (ZHAO WUJI, B. 1920)

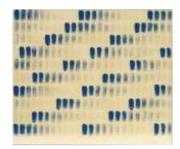
signed 'Wou-ki ZAO' in Chinese & Pinyin (lower right); signed 'ZAO Wou-Ki' in Pinyin; dated '6.11.85' (on the reverse)

oil on canvas

128.5 x 95 cm. (50 1/2 x 37 1/3 in.)

Painted in 1985

Estimate: HK\$ 5,000,000 - 7,000,000 / US\$ 641,000 - 897,400



Korean painter Lee U-Fan rejects the notions of representation and specificity associated with the act of painting, his minimalist approach reflecting Taoist simplicity. A prime advocate of the Japanese avantgarde group, *Mono-ha*, and the 1960-1980 Korean monochrome art group, *Dansaekhwa*, Lee is widely respected for his contributions to the development of Japanese and Korean art, and is regarded as one of their greatest contemporary artists and art theorists.

Lot 1018

#### LEE UFAN (B. 1936)

#### From Point

signed 'L. UFAN' in English; dated '77' (lower right); signed 'Lee UFan' in English; dated '77'; titled 'From Point' (on the reverse)

oil on canvas

60 x 71 cm. (23 5/8 x 28 in.)

Painted in 1977

Estimate: HK\$ 1,500,000 - 2,000,000 / US\$ 192,300 - 256,400



Zhang Xiaogang is one of China's best recognized contemporary painters. His haunting *Bloodline* series serves as a personal and collective elegy on the experience of the Cultural Revolution for Zhang and his generation. Mimicking the format of archival family photographs, his *Bloodline: Big Family - Father and Son* lays bare the conflicts of the era – the adherence to the collective values of the nation versus the traditional obligations of the Confucian family. The painting's restrained treatment of shadow and light and its quiet surrealism not only highlights an Easterner's yearning for spiritual purity, it also epitomizes the artist's documentation of a changing China.

Lot 1021

### ZHANG XIAOGANG (B. 1958)

Bloodline: Big Family - Father and Son

signed in Chinese; dated '2001'; signed 'Zhang Xiaogang' in Pinyin (lower right) oil on canvas

150 x 190 cm. (59 x 74 3/4 in.)

Painted in 2001

Estimate: HK\$ 14,000,000 - 20,000,000 / US\$ 1,794,900 - 2,564,100



Born in 1974, Jitish Kallat has gained international recognition as one of India's best artists. *Untitled (Eclipse)-4* gives monumental treatment to the millions of youth who come to Bombay each year in search of a better life. As such, he casts critical light – at once celebratory and ironic -- on how an age-old civilization is transformed by the aspirations brought on by globalization.

Lot 1037

### JITISH KALLAT (B. 1974)

#### Untitled (Eclipse)-4

titled 'Untitled (Eclipse) - 4' (upper left of left panel); dated, signed and titled '2007-08 Jitish Kallat Untitled (Eclipse) - 4' (on the stretcher of each) acrylic on canvas, triptych

275 x 518 cm. (108 1/4 x 203 7/8 in.)

Painted in 2008

Estimate: HK\$1,500,000 - 2,000,000 / US\$192,300 - 256,400



© 2010 Estate of Nam June Paik

As early as the 1960s, Paik Nam June experimented with a variety of media including "TV" and "video" as his primary creative language, earning him his status as the godfather of video art. TV is Kitsch, featured in the Evening sale, one of Paik's robot sculptures incorporating Paik's mesmerizing video loop of found images, draws on our collective nostalgia for antiquated and quaint technology. The work is a utopic celebration of the ubiquitous presence of television and mass media in everyday life and its capacity to bring people together in one "global culture". As one of the first Asian artists to break into the mainstream of Western contemporary sculpture, Paik Nam June inspired many later artists to free themselves of the constraints of traditional media, ushering in a brand new era of creativity.

Lot 1040

### **PAIK NAM JUNE (1932-2006)**

#### TV is Kitsch

signed in Korean; dated '96'; signed 'PAIK' in English (upper left) 13 wood tv cabinets, 2 DVD players, two 5" TVs, four 9" TV's, seven 13", TV's 2 channel Paik original video

230 x 74 x 270 cm. (90 1/2 x 29 1/8 x 106 1/4 in.) Executed in 1996

Estimate: HK\$3,500,000 - 5,500,000 / US\$448,700 - 705,100



©Yoshitomo Nara

Yoshitomo Nara is among Japan's best-recognized artists born in the period following World War II. Often likened to the popular cultural forms of anime and manga, Nara's works are equally distillations of the simplicity of traditional Japanese Zen art, the jarring distortions of Cubism, and Nara's own incendiary punk rock sensibilities. Angry Boy Blue, the monumental canvas featured in the Evening sale, depicts the disproportionate features of a young boy's head, empty speech bubbles bursting around him, emblems of his stuttering and inarticulate anger. Nara's unique and iconic figures have become symbols for the angst and ennui of the artist's generation.

Lot 1042

### YOSHITOMO NARA (B. 1959)

Angry Boy Blue

acrylic on canvas

198.2 x 193 cm. (78 x 6 in.)

Painted in 2008

Estimate: HK\$5,500,000 - 6,500,000 / US\$705,100 - 833,300



There are few Chinese painters whose careers boast the breadth and complexity as that of Zeng Fanzhi. The arc of his iconic *Mask* series from the 1990s demonstrates Zeng's own evolving art practice and interest in the psychological disposition of his generation. In *Mask Series No. 3* from 1997, Zeng offers the solitary image of a young man, posing romantically with flower in hand. Standing before a deliberately artificial backdrop and wearing a mask to hide his true expression, Zeng's choice of imagery, combined with his expressive paint use in the figure's flesh, offer a dynamic and complex vision of the artifice and aspirations inherent to China's new generations.

Lot 1045

## ZENG FANZHI (B. 1964)

Mask Series No. 3

signed in Chinese; dated '97'; signed 'Zeng Fanzhi' in Pinyin (lower right) oil on canvas  $150 \times 129.9 \text{ cm}$ . (59 x 51 1/8 in.)

Painted in 1997

Estimate: HK\$5,000,000 - 8,000,000 / US\$641,000 - 1,025,600

### Other Select Highlights from Chinese 20th Century Art (Day Sale)



The subject of Chao Chung-Hsiang's *Glowing* is bamboo, one of the four classic "Gentlemen", a well-known motif in Chinese painting. By juxtaposing the harsh bamboo in ink against colourful acrylic splashes and angular diamond shapes, Chao creates a perfect assimilation of Chinese and Western abstract art.

Lot 1114

# CHAO CHUNG-HSIANG (ZHAO CHUNXIANG, 1913-1991)

signed in Chinese; signed 'Chao' in Pinyin; dated '89'; inscribed 'N.Y.C' in English (upper left); inscribed, signed and dated in Chinese; signed 'Chao' in Pinyin (upper right)

ink and acrylic on paper 92.7 x 68.8 cm. (36 1/2 x 27 1/8 in.) Painted in 1984; retouched in 1989

Estimate: HK\$600,000 - 800,000 / US\$76,900 - 102,600



Blinding light beams, thick colours and bold brush strokes are the main elements that characterize this abstract still life, yet Chu Teh-Chun's treatment of lines and dots exudes a distinct style reminiscent of Chinese calligraphy.

Lot 1115

#### CHU TEH-CHUN (ZHU DEQUN, B. 1920)

Composition (No. 28)

signed in Chinese; signed 'CHU TEH-CHUN' in Pinyin (lower right) mixed media on paper, laid on canvas  $55.5 \times 36.5$  cm. (21  $3/4 \times 14 \times 3/8$  in.)

Painted in the 1960s

Estimate: HK\$300,000 - 500,000 / US\$38,500 - 64,100



While Chen Danqing's *Mother and Children* may demonstrate movement towards Western realism, the root of the painting remains strictly Chinese in terms of local culture and the spirit of the era. Chen Danqing's works, with their depiction of humanitarian interests and concerns relevant to their time, have prompted a new form of art termed 'neo Chinese realism'.

Lot 1130

**CHEN DANQING (B. 1953)** 

Mother and Children

signed in Chinese; dated '1986' (lower left)

oil on canvas

100.4 x 74.5 cm. (39 1/2 x 29 1/3 in.)

Painted in 1986

Estimate: HK\$2,000,000 - 2,500,000 / US\$ 256,400 - 320,500

## Select Highlights from Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale)

Lot 1334

LI SONGSONG (B. 1973)

Khmer Rouge

signed in Chinese; signed 'Li Song song' in Pinyin; dated '2006' (on the reverse) acrylic on canvas

130 x 279 cm. (51 1/8 x 109 7/8 in.)

Painted in 2006

Estimate: HK\$1,000,000 - 1,500,000 / US\$128,200 - 192,300



Lot 1345

ZHOU CHUNYA (B. 1955)

Peach Blossom & Green Dog

signed in Chinese; signed 'Zhou Chunya' in Pinyin; dated '2008' (lower right)

200 x 250 cm. (78 3/4 x 98 3/8 in.)

Painted in 2008

Estimate: HK\$2,500,000 - 3,500,000 / US\$320,500 - 448,700



Lot 1359

SUH DO-HO (B. 1962)

Metal Jacket

stainless steel, fabric sculpture

139 x 33.5 x 82.5 cm. (54 3/4 x 13 1/8 x 32 1/2 in.)

with stand: 153 x 60 x 158 cm. (60 1/4 x 23 5/8 x 62 1/4 in.)

edition of 9

Executed in 1992-2001

Estimate: HK\$2,000,000 - 3,000,000 / US\$ 256,400 - 384,600



Lot 1389

LIU YE (B. 1964)

Hans Christian Andersen in the Snow: after Albert Küchler

dated '05'; signed in Chinese; signed 'Liu Ye' in Pinyin (lower left) acrylic and oil on canvas

diameter: 79.7 cm. (31 3/8 in.)

Painted in 2005

Estimate: HK\$2,000,000 - 3,000,000 / US\$256,400 - 384,600



Lot 1419 CAI GUO QIANG (B. 1957) Untitled

signed 'Cai' in Pinyin; dated '1988' (lower right) gunpowder, oil on canvas 41 x 32 cm. (16 1/8 x 12 5/8 in.) Executed in 1988

Estimate: HK\$200,000 - 300,000 / US\$ 25,600 - 38,500

### IMAGES can be downloaded here:

http://cshk.mvftp.org/Spring%202011%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/AsianContempArt/Images/

### Selected highlights will be on view in the following cities prior to the sales:

Date	Location	Venue
21-22 May	Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building
26-29 May	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

\*Note to Editor: Updated Christie's Hong Kong Spring 2011 Auctions Schedule

CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG SPRING 2011 AUCTIONS Auctions: 27 May – 1 June   Public viewing: Begins 26 May				
Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre				
Friday, 27 May	5.30pm	Saleroom 2	Finest and Rarest Wines - Rarities from the Cellars of Château Latour	
Saturday , 28 May	7pm	Saleroom 1	Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art (Evening Sale)	
Sunday, 29 May	10.30am	Saleroom 1	Chinese 20th Century Art (Day Sale)	
	2.30pm	Saleroom 1	Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale)	
Monday, 30 May	10.30am	Saleroom 1	Southeast Asian Modern and Contemporary Art	
	11.30am & 2.30pm	Saleroom 2	Important Watches	
Tuesday, 31 May	10am	Saleroom 1	Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy	
	2.30pm	Saleroom 1	Fine Chinese Modern Paintings	
	1.30pm	Saleroom 2	Hong Kong Magnificent Jewels	
Wednesday, 1 June	10am	Saleroom 1	Inspired Connoisseurship: Property from a European Collection	
	11.15am	Saleroom 1	The Imperial Sale	
	1.15pm	Saleroom 1	Continuous Joy and Boundless Longevity: A Magnificent Qianlong Revolving Vase	
	2.30pm	Saleroom 1	Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art	

#### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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. Christies 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 \$100 million. Christies has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christies 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. Visit Christie's Website at <a href="https://www.christies.com">www.christies.com</a>

<sup>\*</sup>Estimates do not include buyer's premium