

For Immediate Release
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CHRISTIE'S 佳士得

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Christie's Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art

Autumn Auctions 2011 proudly presents

Faces of the New China:
The Evening Sale of an Important Private Collection



Faces of the New China: An Important Private Collection (Evening Sale)

Saturday, 26 Nov, 7pm, Sale 2898

James Christie Room, Grand Hall,

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wanchai, Hong Kong



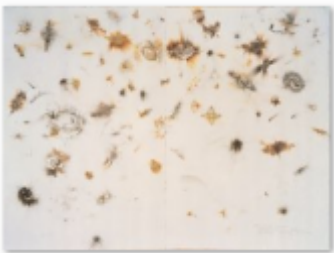
Hong Kong – Leading global auction house Christie's proudly presents the Autumn Evening Sale ***Faces of the New China: An Important Private Collection***, which leads the 2011 Hong Kong Autumn season of Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art sales from 26 to 27 November. Presented as a stand-alone sale within the prestigious Evening Sale and with a total estimate in excess of HK\$150,000,000, this single owner collection comprises 14 iconic works by preeminent contemporary Chinese artists including **Zhang Xiaogang, Yue Minjun, Cai Guoqiang, Liu Ye and Tang Zhigang**. Representing the pinnacle of the earliest years of Chinese avant-garde art, these exquisite pieces epitomize the period when the artists established their creative paths and idiosyncratic styles, vividly showcasing the conceptual origins of one of the most astonishing cultural and aesthetic shifts in recent art history.

Cai Guoqiang

A cornerstone of the collection are the three monumental gunpowder drawings from the artist Cai Guoqiang, selected from his masterwork "Drawings for the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation". The three works, *Imagining the Universe, UFO and Ode to Joy*, embody the core motifs of Cai's art and the aesthetic concepts he has developed over the past 20 years. This series in particular is one of his most cited works, recognized for its epoch-making significance and immense value.

The work appeals to a broad audience, and their disparate responses to the piece highlight the ways in which Chinese artists have extended their own cultural traditions in new and innovative ways into the present era, while at the same breathing a breath of fresh air into contemporary art discourse. Asian critics see in Cai's work traces of Asian cultural heritage, while Western critics find his work as a sweeping exegesis and recapitulation of Modern Western artistic concepts. With his originality, sophistication and unique fusion of the traditional with the contemporary, his work suggests the unique positioning of Asian Contemporary Art in the contemporary art scene.

Selected highlights:

	<p>CAI GUO-QIANG (B. 1957) <i>Drawing for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation: UFO</i> inscribed, titled, signed and dated in Chinese; signed 'Cai' in Pinyin; dated '2002' (lower right) gunpowder on paper 300 x 400 cm. (118 x 157 1/2 in.) Executed in 2002</p> <p>Estimate: HK\$ 6,000,000 - 8,000,000 US\$ 769,200 - 1,025,600</p>
	<p>CAI GUO-QIANG (B. 1957) <i>Drawing for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation: Ode to Joy</i> inscribed, titled, signed and dated in Chinese; signed 'Cai' in Pinyin; dated '2002' (lower right) gunpowder on paper 300 x 400 cm. (118 x 157 1/2 in.) Executed in 2002</p> <p>Estimate: HK\$ 6,000,000 - 8,000,000 US\$ 769,200 - 1,025,600</p>
	<p>CAI GUO-QIANG (B. 1957) <i>Drawing for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation: Imagining the Universe</i> inscribed, titled, signed and dated in Chinese; signed 'Cai' in Pinyin; dated '2002' (lower right) gunpowder on paper 300 x 400 cm. (118 x 157 1/2 in.) Executed in 2002</p> <p>Estimate: HK\$ 6,000,000 - 8,000,000 US\$ 769,200 - 1,025,600</p>

Chinese avant-garde art for the “New China” generation




Each work from *“Faces of the New China”* helps elucidate the core aspects of Chinese avant-garde art. Through the unique modes of representation, self-portraiture and portraiture developed by these artists, they have visualized not only an epoch and the changes within it, but also the lived experience of individuals in a manner that reflects the life and mind of the “New China” generation. As these artists scrutinized the place of the individual against a particular historical background, they have made a collective self-portrait, one that mirrors the mentality of a generation living ordinarily as individuals and, at the same time, existing under the expeditious metamorphosis of their country as a whole.

These works represent the characteristics of China in a particular space and time, thereby becoming the faces of an era. For these artists, portraiture became a genre through which to explore both traditional Chinese aesthetical forms, while also being equally reactive to modern Western styles of expression. Drawing from diverse strains of tradition and modernity, these intrepid artists hunt for unique expressive forms that are at once roots firmly in the Chinese culture and responses to a new era.

Their works, then, reveal the appeal of Chinese contemporary art internationally. The works of these artists – variously delicate, haunting, satirical and explosive – offer us direct insight into an extraordinary epoch, as well as the ways in which these artists discovered new terrain between the traditions of Western and Eastern art.

Christie's Hong Kong has been the leading promoter and auctioneer of Asian modern and contemporary art since the category's inception. We have been honoured to be entrusted, over the years, by private collectors, estates, and museums with their rare and desirable treasures. These include the collection of Yageo Foundation in 2004; the collection of Oliver Stone, a distinguished Hollywood director, in 2008; the historic Zao Wou-ki canvases, sold to benefit the acquisition fund of Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum in 2009; the private collection of Howard and Patricia Farber and the Estate of John Bransten, both sold earlier in 2011. This year, *“Faces of the New China: An Important Private Collection”* continues this great legacy.

Other highlights:

	<p>ZHANG XIAOGANG (B. 1958) <i>Portrait in Yellow</i> oil on canvas 108 x 90 cm. (42 1/2 x 35 1/2 in.) Painted in 1993</p> <p>Estimate: HK\$ 25,000,000 - 30,000,000 US\$ 3,205,100 - 3,846,200</p>
	<p>LIU YE (B. 1964) <i>The Happy Family</i> oil on canvas 119.9 x 140.2 cm. (47 1/8 x 55 1/8 in.) Painted in 1998</p> <p>Estimate: HK\$ 12,000,000 - 18,000,000 US\$ 1,538,500 - 2,307,700</p>
	<p>YUE MINJUN (B. 1962) <i>Portrait of the Artist and His Friends</i> oil on canvas 187 x 198 cm. (73 5/8 x 78 in.) Painted in 1991</p> <p>Estimate: HK\$ 25,000,000 - 30,000,000 US\$ 3,205,100 - 3,846,200</p>
	<p>YUE MINJUN (B. 1962) <i>The Massacre at Chios</i> oil on canvas, diptych overall: 249.9 x 364 cm (98.4 x 143.3 in.) Painted in 1994</p> <p><i>Estimate on Request</i></p>

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IMAGES can be downloaded here:

http://cshk.myftp.org/2011%20Fall%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/A20CA/IMAGES/2898_Faces%20of%20the%20New%20China/

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

Date	Location	Venue
9-15 September	New York	Christie's New York, Rockefeller Center
2-3 October	Hong Kong	Grand Hyatt Hong Kong Hotel, 1 Harbour Road, Hong Kong
20-22 October	Paris	Christie's Paris
22-23 October	Singapore	Artspace@Helu-trans
19-20 November	Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building
24-26 November	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

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

CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG FALL 2011 AUCTIONS			
Auctions: 25 – 30 November Public viewing: Begins 24 November			
Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre			
Friday, 25 Nov	James Christie Room	10.30am	Finest and Rarest Wines (Part I)
Saturday, 26 Nov	James Christie Room	12nn	Finest and Rarest Wines (Part II)
	James Christie Room	7pm	Faces of the New China: An Important Private Collection (Evening Sale)
		7.30pm	Asian 20 th Century & Contemporary Art (Evening Sale)
Sunday, 27 Nov	James Christie Room	10am	Asian 20 th Century Art (Day Sale)
	James Christie Room	3pm	Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale)
Monday, 28 Nov	James Christie Room	2.30pm	Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy
Tuesday, 29 Nov	James Christie Room	10am & 2.30pm	Fine Chinese Modern Paintings
	Woods Room	1.30pm	Hong Kong Magnificent Jewels
Wednesday, 30 Nov	James Christie Room	10am & 2pm	Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art
	James Christie Room		Exceptional Chinese works of art from an Important European Collection
	Woods Room	11am & 3pm	Important Watches

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2011 that totaled £2.0 billion/\$3.2 billion. In 2010 it achieved global auction and private sales of £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. 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 \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Zurich, 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.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*