

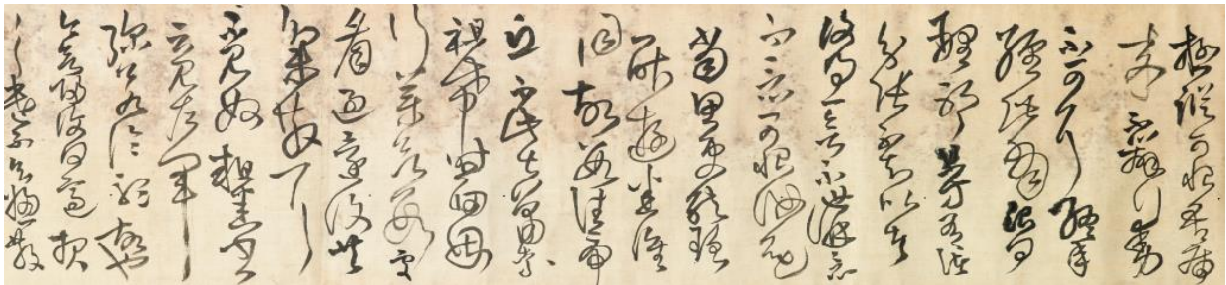
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THE ART PEOPLE

PRESS RELEASE | HONG KONG | 11 November 2015

Journeys of Refinement

A Series of Extraordinary Sales this Autumn Season



Hong Kong - Christie's announces an exceptional calendar of sales from Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy, Chinese Contemporary Ink paintings, to Song Ceramics and Scholar's Rocks in the upcoming autumn 2015 sales.

United in the pursuit of achieving a sense of aesthetic refinement, these categories share a character of monochromatic and almost minimalist rigour, pursuing the highest ideologies of spirit, texture and form. This depiction of form and proportion was used to convey the grandeur of nature, the spirit of energy and to communicate a sense of timeless subtlety and sublime refinement.

Jonathan Stone, Chairman, Asian Art: 'Exceeding pure aesthetics, the breadth of these sales represents the lifelong philosophical pursuit of the Chinese literati to achieve greater enlightenment, through their love of literature, paintings and collecting scholar's objects.'

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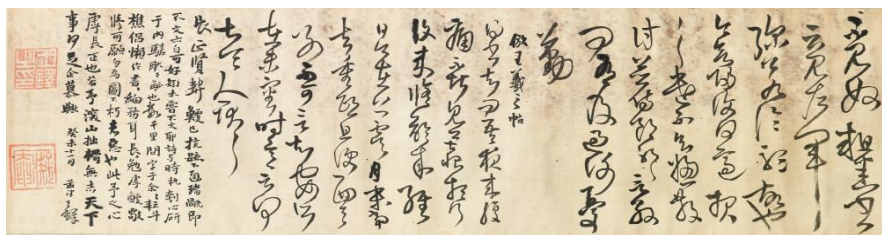
Classical Chinese Paintings, Calligraphy and Contemporary Ink Highlights

On 30 November, a series of works from the Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy will be up for auction, led by exceptional pieces by Bada Shanren and Wang Duo. These works share the common pursuits of subtle restraint and energy, appealing to the literati high philosophies, which demonstrate sublime calligraphy skills and masterstrokes on paper.

More than three hundred years later, contemporary ink artists Liu Dan and Li Huayi seek inspiration from classical masters and re-interpreted paintings of rock and pine tree using new effects and technique. They attempt to emulate a literati lifestyle through the pursuit of literature, painting and the collecting of scholar's objects. These works will be featured in the Chinese Contemporary Ink auction.

The exceptional **Cursive Script Calligraphy** (illustrated left) created in 1643 by Wang Duo during his fifties, is

considered one of his greatest calligraphy works. As a calligrapher, Wang Duo combines artistic creation and learning, forging an idiosyncratic style that is both firmly grounded in tradition while championing true innovation.



WANG DUO - *Cursive Script Calligraphy* (above)

Handscroll, ink on satin

HK\$8,000,000 – 10,000,000

US\$1,100,000 – 1,300,000

Egret on Rock (illustrated left) by Bada Shanren is a monumental piece which comes from a private collection in Japan, and has been illustrated in various publications from as early as the 1930s. Japanese collectors highly prize the work of Bada Shanren through the belief that a Buddhism and Taoism aura emanates through his work.



BADA SHANREN - *Egret on Rock*

Hanging scroll, ink on paper

HK\$18,000,000 – 28,000,000

US\$2,400,000 – 3,600,000

Rock of the Water, Pine and Stone Retreat (illustrated top right) by Liu Dan depicts a scholar's rock at the bottom of the composition to reflect a microscopic world. Liu often states his appreciation of the scholar's object, for it enables him to connect to the wider cosmos through contemplation of its organic form. Through meticulously studying a small rock, Liu attempts to see the wider universe from a microscopic view, transforming a tangible object into an imaginary landscape prompting an inner spiritual awakening.



LIU DAN - *Rock of the Water, Pine and Stone Retreat*

Scroll, mounted and framed ink on paper

HK\$600,000 - 800,000

US\$78,000 - 100,000

Pine Tree on a Cliff (illustrated bottom right) by Li Huayi resembles the monumental Northern Song painting in spirit, yet the method with which the artist experiments is fundamentally a mix of old and new. To create the momentous presence, Li splashes ink onto paper, allowing it to flow freely to form the underlying composition before arduously adding realistic details using the fine brush *gongbi* technique. With fantastical grey and black clouds obscuring the mountainscape in a dramatic light, the resulting image is at once intimidating yet intimate, radiating a quiet energy.



LI HUAYI - *Pine Tree on a Cliff*

Fan leaf, mounted and framed ink and colour on silk

HK\$350,000 - 450,000

US\$46,000 - 58,000

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Chinese Scholar's Rocks Highlights

For the first time at Christie's, the **Beyond White Clouds – Chinese Scholar's Rocks From a Private Collection** sale on 2 December 2015 will offer an impressive selection of pieces to be auctioned in Hong Kong. The scholar's rocks are characterised as favoured stones of the Chinese literati and their followers, displayed and appreciated indoors in the rarefied atmosphere of their studios. In these rocks, connoisseurs typically admire such qualities as attenuated proportions that recall soaring peaks, textured surfaces that suggest great age, forceful profiles that evoke the grandeur of nature or perforations that create rhythmic, harmonious patterns.

Assembled from a notable private collection, the present offering reflects the tradition of Chinese scholar's rocks as understood by connoisseurs and selected based on exceptional provenance. One such rock and a top highlight of the sale is a dark-grey Lingbi stone, which bears the signatures of celebrated painters Jin Nong (1687-1763) and Gao Fenghan (1683-1749).



AN INSCRIBED AND DATED LINGBI CLOUD-FORM SCHOLAR'S ROCK

SIGNED JIN NONG (1687-1763); SIGNED GAO FENGHAN (1683-1749),

HK\$1,800,000 - 2,800,000

US\$240,000 - 360,000

The inscribed and dated Linbi cloud-form scholar's rock takes on an elongated form, rising and twisting to create striking internal tension, intensified through angled protuberances and crevices. The Lingbi stone is inscribed by two artists of the Yanzhou School of painters, namely Gao Fenghan and Jin Nong, who were part of the famous 'Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou' circle.

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Song Ceramics Highlights

On 2 December 2015, **The Classic Age of Chinese Ceramics - The Linyshanren Collection, Part, I** which contains a series of extraordinary pieces from a comprehensive Japanese private collection will be offered up for auction. Assembled through a disciplined and discerning eye, the Linyshanren Collection bears testament to a devoted collector.

Amassed over three decades, the collection is comprised of exquisite pieces encompassing some of the most significant kiln sites across china during the Song dynasty, which have long been admired by international connoisseurs for their exceptional and unparalleled refinement.



FINE GE FOLIATE DISH

SOUTHERN SONG DYNASTY (1127-1279)

HK\$40,000,000 - 50,000,000

US\$5,200,000-6,500,000

The highlight of the 36-lot sale is a very rare *Ge* foliate dish dating from the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). It was shown in the seminal 1952 exhibition dedicated to Chinese ceramics by the Los Angeles Museum, and was once owned by the distinguished collector Stephen Junkunc III. Particularly admired by all the greatest connoisseurs, the deliberately crackled *Ge* glaze is highly sought-after for its rarity and reminiscence of the fissures in jade, possibly the most prized of all natural materials.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Beyond White Clouds – Chinese Scholar's Rocks From a Private Collection The Classic Age of Chinese Ceramics- The Linyushanren Collection, Part I

Auction: 2 December 2015

Preview: 26 November – 1 December – 10:30am – 6:00pm

Saleroom: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai

Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy Chinese Contemporary Ink

Auction: 30 November 2015

Preview: 26 November – 29 November – 10:30am – 6:00pm

Saleroom: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2015 that totalled £2.9 billion / \$4.5 billion. In 2014, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totalled £5.1 billion/\$8.4 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Christie's has a global presence with 54 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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, third-party financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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