

CHRISTIE'S

THE ART PEOPLE

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Masterstrokes of a 20th Century Legend

Christie's to Offer a Series of Exceptional Paintings by Zhang Daqian



Temple by the Waterfall - scroll mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 57 x 90 cm, estimate: HK\$15,000,000-20,000,000,/ US\$2,000,000-2,600,000

Hong Kong – From 30 November to 1 December 2015, a group of masterworks by Zhang Daqian, one of the most prodigious Chinese 20th century artists, will be offered at auction at Christie's Hong Kong.

Consigned from several distinguished collections, the rich selection of works beautifully represents a cross section of the artist's highly revered body of work with a special highlight on his splashed ink series.

Zhang Daqian's splashed ink works are a culmination of his life-long dedication and represent the pinnacle of his career, rich with the accumulated skill and experience from his travels around the globe and shaped heavily by his continuous striving for re-invention and greatness. Abstract in nature (these works are clearly influenced by the West), they harkening back to his cultural roots and Chinese heritage. This harmony is beautifully represented in the amalgamation of the uncontrollable and controllable – the former being the (eventual) distribution and absorption of ink (intensity and spread), and the latter being the artist's ability to transform them into tangible mountains, hills, waterfalls.

Ben Kong, International Specialist, Head of Chinese of Paintings, commented: 'Without a doubt Zhang Daqian was a leading figure in Modern Chinese painting. His astonishing oeuvre is a distillation through the history of Chinese painting, achieved from unabating and obsessive rigour. In modern art he stands out for his innovations with his splashed ink technique, displaying magnificent landscapes of placid refinement and natural grace, while in traditional painting he is immortalised as both a major collector and a supremely skilled practitioner.'

Highlighting Christie's autumn sale of Chinese Modern Paintings is a series of significant splashed ink works from Zhang Daqian's late career. The splashed ink series began as early as 1957, when his vision was affected by diabetic retinopathy (ruptured capillaries in the retina), which served as a catalyst for this now signature style. His technique gradually developed over years with this landmark technique coming into full fruition while in Brazil at his studio (the Garden of Eight Virtues).



Created in 1979, at a time when Daqian had been practising his splashed ink painting technique for over ten years, ***Mountains Amidst a Sea of Clouds*** (scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 68.8 x 136.5 cm, estimate: HK\$12,000,000-18,000,000/US\$1,600,000-2,300,000; *illustrated above*) depicts two contrasting landscapes. The lower part accurately depicts towering mountains, craggy hills, flowing waterfalls, clusters of pines, and lingering clouds, while the top features the splashed ink technique of fluid shades of blue to represent undulating clouds and mist. Despite these compositional contrasts, ***Mountains Amidst a Sea of Clouds*** is painted in complete harmony, exemplifying the masterful techniques that characterise Zhang Daqian's late works.



Created in splashed ink and colour, ***Boats Under a Lush Mountain*** fuses hues of green, blue, and black to create one continuous visual form accentuated with houses and pavilions that resonate literati paintings (scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 64 x 134.5 cm; estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000 / US\$260,000-390,000; *illustrated on the bottom of the previous page*).



Living in the Spring Mountains

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on gold paper, 53 x 40.8 cm
Estimate: HK\$3,000,000-4,000,000 / US\$390,000-520,000

A special selection of splashed ink works from a Brazilian collection is highlighted by ***Snow-Capped Mountains*** which was directly acquired from Zhang Daqian's solo exhibition held in São Paulo in 1974 (*illustrated below right*).



Snow-Capped Mountains

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 59 x 82 cm
Estimate: HK\$3,500,000-4,500,000 / US\$460,000-580,000

Notes to Editors:

Zhang Daqian Works will be offered as part of Christie's sale of **FINE CHINESE MODERN PAINTINGS**



Auction 1 December 2015

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

VIEWINGS:

Thursday, 26 November, 10.30 am - 6.00 pm

Friday, 27 November, 10.30 am - 6.00 pm

Saturday, 28 November, 10.30 am - 6.00 pm

Sunday, 29 November, 10.30 am - 6.30 pm

Monday, 30 November, 10.30 am - 6.30 pm

Living in the Mountains – sold on 2 June 2015

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on silk, 72 x 102.7 cm

Estimate: HK\$16,000,000-22,000,000 / US\$2,100,000-2,800,000

Price realised: HK\$28,120,000 / US\$3,641,681

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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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