Christie’s Hong Kong Chinese Paintings Department Presents
Masterpieces from Classical to Contemporary

ZHANG DAIQIAN (1899-1983)
Red Lotus and Mandarin Ducks
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper
165 x 82 cm (65 x 32 ¼ in.)
Dated summer, guwei year (1943)
HK$30,000,000 – 50,000,000
US$3,800,000 – 6,400,000

VARIOUS ARTISTS (10TH-13TH CENTURY)
Various Subjects (details)
A set of eighteen round fan leaves, mounted and framed,
ink/ink and colour on silk
Each leaf measures approx. 22 x 23 cm (8 ⅝ x 9 in.)
HK$60,000,000 – 100,000,000
US$7,500,000 – 12,500,000

LIU KUO-SUNG (LIU GUOSONG, B. 1932)
Ama Dablam
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper
183 x 90.5 cm. (72 x 35 ¼ in.)
Executed in 2008
HK$1,800,000 – 2,800,000
US$240,000 – 360,000

Hong Kong - This season Christie’s presents an outstanding collection of Chinese paintings showcasing some of the finest works from the Song dynasty through to the present. From meticulous gongbi to monumental splashed ink, the works offer collectors a discerning perspective into the evolution of classical Chinese painting techniques.

Highlights include a group of delicate works on silk from the Song and Ming dynasty, iconic modern masters who fused western influences with traditional aesthetics such as Fu Baoshi, Zhang Daqian, and Wu Guanzhong, and pioneering contemporary artists such as Liu Kuo-Sung, Liu Dan and Xu Lei who give us a glimpse into the future of Chinese paintings.

Ben Kong, Deputy Chairman, International Specialist Head of Chinese of Paintings, commented “Through the ages, each artist has found a deep source of inspiration from their predecessors and developed distinctive styles which reflected their personal reinterpretation of history and painting tradition. The selection of works this season epitomise the best examples of Chinese paintings across time, showcasing a range of unique styles and subject matter”.

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Leading the sale is an extraordinary set of 18 round silk fan leaves from the Song dynasty by various renowned artists, accompanied by 25 colophons and 40 collector’s seals from prominent figures from the 16th-19th centuries. Works from notable private collections will also be offered, such as a group of 12 fan leaves by various artists from a private Japanese collection, as well as an exceptional work of calligraphy by Zhang Ruitu from the renowned collector Mr Yeh Chie Chung.

VARIOUS ARTISTS (10TH-13TH CENTURY)
Various Subjects (details)
A set of eighteen round fan leaves, mounted and framed, ink/ink and colour on silk
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HK$60,000,000 – 100,000,000
US$7,500,000 – 12,500,000

VARIOUS ARTISTS (16TH-17TH CENTURY)
Landscape and Calligraphy
Album of twelve fan leaves, ink/ink and colour on gold paper
Each fan leaf measures approximately 16.5 x 50 cm. (6 ½ x 19 ¾ in.)
HK$2,000,000 – 3,000,000
US$260,000 – 390,000

ZHANG RUITU (1570-1641)
Calligraphy in Running Script
Handscroll, ink on satin
25.9 x 343.5 cm. (10 ¼ x 135 ¼ in.)
HK$1,200,000 – 2,000,000
US$160,000 – 260,000
Among the many highlights from important modern Chinese masters are works by Zhang Daqian including Autumn Mountain and Red Lotus and Mandarin Ducks. Although Zhang Daqian’s lotus paintings are not uncommon, there are only two examples that feature both his gold-outlined red lotuses and meticulously painted mandarin ducks, making this work rare in the market. Standing six feet tall, the composition is well balanced, with the overlapping foliage painted with varying shades of ink to emphasize a sense of three dimensionality and a sense of movement. In Yellow River Under Moonlight by Wu Guangzhong, the artist used a series of techniques rooted in both Eastern and Western traditions to create an overall composition that calls to mind a classical Chinese landscape in handscroll format, while the linear treatment of perspective is reminiscent of the aesthetics of western painting. In Scenery of Sinaia by Fu Baoshi we see a different approach to landscape painting, here rendered in an impressionistic manner with rich variations of ink and colour washes. This work is considered to be among his finest compositions from his rare “Eastern Europe” body of work.
Contemporary ink artists continue to draw upon historical artistic wisdom, reinterpreting traditional painting techniques and applying a unique perspective to their creations. Several works on offer this season beautifully embody this practice, such as *Ama Dablam* by Liu Kuo-Sung. Inspired by his visits to Tibet, the artist portrayed the majesty of the Himalayas by combining technical mastery with an experimental use of materials, to create an atmospheric “portrait” of snowy jagged mountains. In *New English Calligraphy - Zen Poetry III* by Xu Bing, he explores a multi-dimensional way of thinking beyond the framework of language, deconstructing and reconstructing characters, with a narrative that is neither Chinese nor English, while in *Ruyi* by Liu Dan we see calligraphy accompanying a meticulously depicted *Ruyi*, with its almost photographic depiction serving as a microscopic view to the wider universe. Joining these highlights is *Lost City* by Xu Lei, presenting a spellbinding visual conundrum, for which the artists is best known, as viewers are met with an intimate and unfolding drama full of symbolism, reminiscent of the surrealist worlds of Rene Magritte.
Exquisite Eye: Chinese Paintings Online presents an eclectic selection of works that range from Classical and Modern through to the Contemporary period, featuring a diverse spectrum of subjects such as landscape, birds and flowers to calligraphy. Contemporary highlights include works by Lui Shou Kwan, Chen Qikuan, Zhu Wei, and He Baili. A Japanese collection of paintings and calligraphy by late Qing and Republican period artists such as Li Ruiqing, Shen Zengzhi and Zeng Xi, leads the auction. Also on offer is a selection of works by key political and cultural figures of the Republican era, highlighted by the Family Collection of General Zhang Fakui, which includes works by Feng Yuxiang and Zhang Shizhao. This dedicated online auction offers emerging and seasoned collectors a unique opportunity to acquire paintings from distinguished private collections from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and Southeast Asia.
Notes to Editors:

CHINESE CONTEMPORARY INK – 26 November
FINE CHINESE CLASSICAL PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY - 27 November
FINE CHINESE MODERN PAINTINGS – 26 & 27 November

LOCATION: Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No.1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, HK
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About Christie's

Christie’s, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2018 that totalled £2.97 billion / $4.04 billion. Christie’s is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie’s offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie’s has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.

*Estimates do not include buyer’s premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer’s premium and are reported net of applicable fees.

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