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Christie's Unveils Two Important Zao Wou-Ki's Masterpieces
Including

**An Exceptionally Rare and Monumental 1987-1988 Triptych
Representing a Moment of "Genesis"**

To Lead the Hong Kong Spring Sales

One of the Artist's Most Important and Largest Triptychs Ever Made
The First Time to be Presented on the Market



ZAO WOU-KI (ZHAO WUJI, FRANCE/CHINA, 1920-2013)

Triptych 1987-1988

oil on canvas (triptych)

Overall: 200 x 486 cm. (78 3/4 x 191 3/8 in.)

Painted in 1987-1988

HK\$120,000,000-150,000,000

US\$15,000,000 - 20,000,000

Hong Kong - Christie's is proud to unveil two masterpieces by Zao Wou-Ki to lead the Spring season of sales commencing from 24th May. The top highlight of the season is the exceptionally important and magnificent work ***Triptych 1987-1988*** (estimate HK\$120,000,000-150,000,000), to be presented on the market for the very first time.

Completed between 1987-1988, this composition stands as one of the largest and most important triptychs executed by Zao during the 1980s, and is one of only 20 large triptychs created by the artist that are known to exist. This exceedingly rare work is the second largest painting by Zao to ever be offered on the market and features the rich colours and dramatic composition that characterises Zao's best work during this period.

Triptych 1987-1988 was created out of the synthesis between Zao's knowledge of Chinese painting techniques and his Western sensitivity to colour and light. Influenced by Henri Matisse's series of "open window" paintings and Claude Monet's *Nymphéas*, the work depicts a transcendent abstract space, suggestive of a moment of sublime genesis.

The compositional and colouristic strength of this painting is evident in the powerful blocks of colour that anchor the work and provide a "window" onto the dynamic centre of the piece. Rich colours draw the viewer's gaze inwards, resulting in a piece that visually represents Zao's bridging of different traditions and his concept of painting with "no limits".

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ZAO WOU-KI (ZHAO WUJI, FRANCE/CHINA, 1920-2013)

02.01.65

oil on canvas

162 x 200 cm. (63 3/4 x 78 3/4 in.)

Painted in 1965

Estimate on Request

The second masterpiece to be presented is Zao's **02.01.65**, a work painted during one of Zao's most creative and sought after periods, with works from the same decade having achieved numerous world record prices over the years.

This painting is one of the best examples of Zao's "Hurricane Period" where he integrated the energy and movement of Chinese cursive calligraphy with Western abstract expressionism after his trip with Pierre Soulages to New York, Japan and Hong Kong. This 1965 painting builds upon several powerful works created in the prior year (which have achieved top record prices) by embodying even greater complexity and movement and can thus be considered a major masterpiece from the period.

Notes to Editors

Auction: Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale

Date: 25 May 2019

Venue : Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No. 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

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Images available on request

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