

CHRISTIE'S

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Christie's Shanghai & Michael Lau to Host

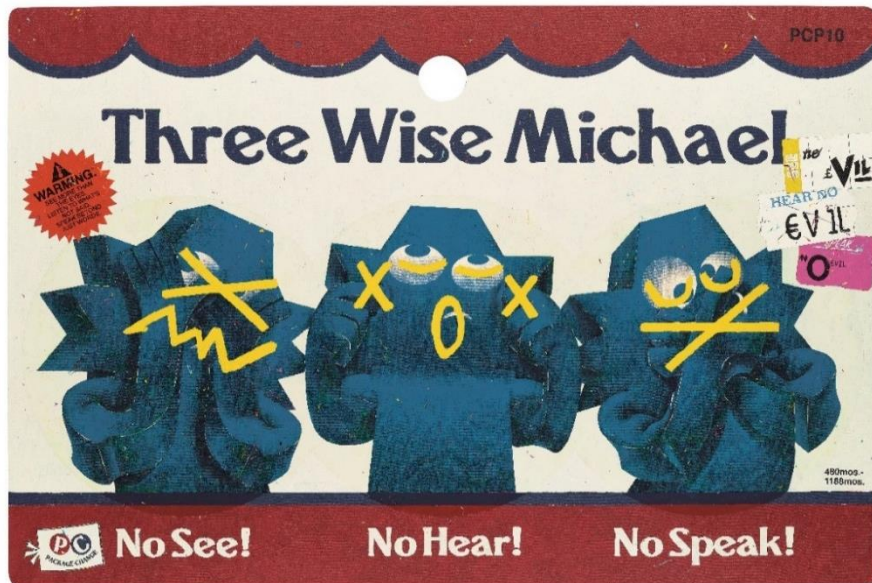
“COLLECT THEM ALL !”

The First Ever Pop Art Private Selling Exhibition

by Christie's in China

30 August, 2019 10:30am Press Call

31 August- 12 September, 2019 10:00am- 5:30pm Public Preview



*Package-Change series 10 -
Three Wise Michael*
Acrylic on Canvas
183 x 275cm. (72 x 108 1/4 in.)
Painted in 2019

Shanghai – Following its highly successful inaugural launch last year, Christie's is delighted to announce the [“Collect Them All!”](#) private selling exhibition will once again be returning. Taking place in Shanghai from 31st August to 12th September, the exhibition will showcase a wide range of dynamic and custom-made artworks by renowned Hong Kong artist Michael Lau.

As the only international auction house with dedicated exhibition spaces in both Beijing and Shanghai, Christie's continues its activities in promoting art from Asia and around the world and is thrilled to present this first ever pop art exhibition in Shanghai.

Over 50 of Michael's unconventional, graphic, three-dimensional works will be on display, exploring the artist's concept of **“All Art Are Toys, All Toys Are Art”**.

Known as the “Godfather of Designer Toys”, Michael Lau Kin-man is an acclaimed Hong Kong artist born in the 1970s when the city was at the peak of industrialization. The robust toy industry at that time deeply influenced Michael. To him, every toy is a rare treasure that sparks inspiration and shapes his distinguishing artistic style. His figure creations are widely exhibited in places such as London, Paris, Taiwan, and spearheaded the global trend of designer toy collecting.

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Marcello Kwan, Senior Specialist, Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art Department, Christie's Asia Pacific, commented, "We are honoured to once again work with Michael to host his private selling exhibition, this time at Christie's Shanghai. Michael is a one-of-a kind artist whose experience of growing up in Hong Kong affords him a completely unique perspective on art. We are sure Michael's innovative creations and unique perspective will provide for a thought-provoking exhibition for viewers to enjoy".

Michael Lau commented, "I am grateful that the "Collect Them All!" exhibition held last year was positively received, with friends, members of the public and organizations from different communities encouraging me to continue presenting popular culture on the international stage. On many occasions, I am asked during interviews questions such as, "What is popular art?" and "What are the relative strengths and weaknesses of Eastern and Western art?". To these questions, I believe all art is a product and reflection of its time, encompassing the inner workings of the artist who created them. The final comprehension of the viewer is not my primary concern, rather I focus on creating works that truly express my deepest thoughts, while allowing viewers to arrive at their own conclusion - I let my work speak for itself."

Part I: Crazy Children 2000

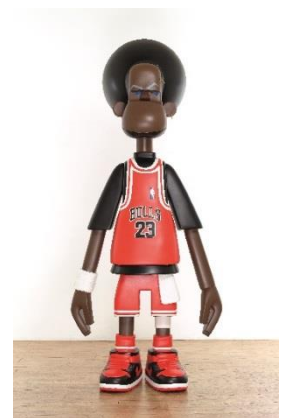


Salvator Michael Gold
Acrylic on Canvas
Diameter: 152 cm. (60 in.)
Painted in 2018

The renowned **Crazychildren** series features nine figures each coming with a distinctive section, that can be detached then re-assembled again to form a figure depicting Michael. A standout set of works from the exhibition in both painting and 3D format is **Salvator Michael**, in which the artist uses his likeness, emulating the pose of Da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi*. In this work, the large capsule toy in his left hand represents limitless opportunities, while the right hand with fingers crossed blesses collectors in their pursuit to "collect them all".

Part II: 6-inches Vinyl Figures (2003 to 2017)

First created between 2003 and 2017, Michael's renowned 6-inch figures have been reimagined, bringing new life to this popular series. Among them is **Jordon**, one of the most popular characters of the Gardener series, which pays tribute to the *Wall of Jordan*, the first large-scale painting jointly presented by the artist and Christie's and sold in a charity sale in 2017 for HK\$1,375,000.



Jordon
Fiberglass Sculpture
unique work
230 x 100 x 80 cm.
(90 1/2 x 39 3/8 x 31 1/2 in.)
Executed in 2019

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Part III: What? We: Want!

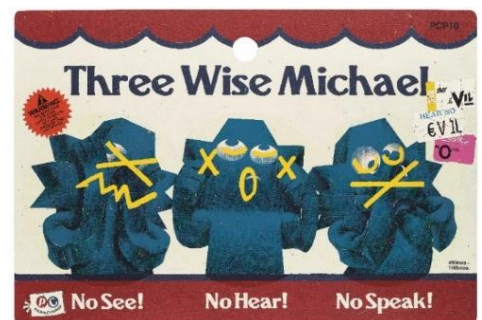


Thinking
Fiberglass Sculpture
unique work
183 x 85 x 43 cm
(72 x 33 1/2 x 16 7/8 in.)
Executed in 2019

What? We: Want! was the title of Michael's solo exhibition held at Times Square Hong Kong in 2016. The three Ws stand for the abbreviation of World Wide Web. This theme explores modern day societies' dependence and continued assimilation with the virtual world, as well as the shifting social relationships between humanity. Created with sponge, his popular work **Thinking** which was previously displayed at Christie's in Hong Kong, has been re-imaged, cast in copper in new colors. Apart from a life-size edition, there will be eight other smaller editions in various colors. From the selection of materials to the presentation of the figures, Michael satirizes the explosion of information on internet and its accompanied consequence. There will also be a paralleled sculpture series in metals to mimic the texture of sponge.

Part IV: Package-Change

In **Package-Change**, Michael examines the pivotal role attractive packaging plays for toy collectors, and the lengths manufacturers take to ensure this. Exploring this notion further, he examines how people attempt to change their own exterior "packaging" to gain acceptance and recognition with their peers. Reflecting this concept are paintings depicting the packaging of five toys, and three-dimensional sculptures enveloped in acrylic resins. Highlight pieces include: **Package with Two Figures**, **Focus**, **Ponder**, **Naughty** and **Three Wise Michael**.



**Package-Change series 10 -
Three Wise Michael**
Acrylic on Canvas
183 x 275cm. (72 x 108 1/4 in.)
Painted in 2019

Part V: Characters 2019



Character series 01 - Love
Acrylic on Canvas
Diameter: 122 cm. (D: 48 in.)
Painted in 2019

Michael has long been amused by the pictographic nature of Chinese characters which adeptly convey a range of meanings, often the very thing the character resembles. As Chinese characters play an essential role in influencing traditional Chinese art and calligraphy, Michael is thus keen to explore how to merge his strength in character creation with various Chinese pictograms. By applying his modern interpretation, Michael creates a new artistic language – “刘建‘文’字”!

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Exhibition Information:

Press call: 10:30am, 30 August, 2019

Public Preview: 10:00am- 5:30pm, 31 August -12 September, 2019

Address: 2nd Floor, Ampire Building, 97 Yuanmingyuan Road, Shanghai

Website: https://www.christies.com/privatesales/2019/michael-lau?lid=1&sc_lang=en

Click [HERE](#) for images

About Michael Lau



Known as the “Godfather of Designer Toys”, Michael Lau Kin-man is an acclaimed Hong Kong artist born in the 1970s when the city was at the peak of industrialization and exported various kinds of toys to leading stores in the U.S. and around the world. Every toy was a rare treasure to young Michael and played a key role in his childhood. His growing passion for toys eventually led him to a career in toy design.

Additionally, Michael Lau has been seen as the godfather of urban vinyl, being largely recognized as the pioneer who launched the trend in the 90s. He was prominently featured in the article “20 Trends Sweeping the Globe” by Forbes Magazine in the January 08 issues.

After graduating from the First Institute of Art and Design in Hong Kong in 1992, Michael held his first solo painting exhibition at the Pao Galleries of the Hong Kong Arts Centre in the following year. In 1999, the prolific graphic designer lent his creativity to action figure design and created the “Gardener” series that juxtaposed his favorite G.I. Joe action figures and street culture. A total of 99 12-inch action figures were featured in his solo exhibition held at the Hong Kong Arts Centre. His passion for figure creation and remarkable achievements garnered global attention and brought him the opportunity to showcase his works in different cities in Japan, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei, London and Paris, leading the global trend of collectible designer toys as an independent designer.



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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in the first half of 2019 that totalled £2.2 billion / \$2.8 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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Images available on request
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