

CHRISTIE'S

Press Release | HONG KONG | 9 NOV 2019 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASTERPIECES BEYOND COMPARE

An Extraordinary Selection of Modern and Contemporary Art
Joins Christie's Broad Offering of Masterpieces this Season



SANYU (CHANG YU, 1895 - 1966)

Five Nudes

oil on masonite

120 x 172 cm. (47 1/4 x 67 3/4 in.)

Painted in 1950s

HK\$250,000,000-550,000,000 / US\$33,000,000-70,000,000

Hong Kong—Christie's is proud to present the Autumn edition of the 20th Century and Contemporary Art Evening Sale, to take place on 23 November. The sale features iconic masterpieces by Asian pioneers of modern and contemporary art, including **Sanyu**, **Zao Wou-Ki**, **Kim Whan-Ki**, **Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita** and **Chu Teh-Chun**. The unrivalled importance and rarity of these masterpieces highlights the significance of this sensational sale, and attests to Christie's leadership in the masterpiece market.

Evelyn Lin, Head of 20th Century and Contemporary Art Department commented: *"This season we aim to show the diversity and breadth of art from Asian masters through our thoughtfully curated line-up. The featured lots by some of the best-known artists from across the region reflect seamless blending of Western influences and Asian roots. Hong Kong remains an important platform to showcase world class artworks, and we are proud to be able to present these top-quality masterworks to international and regional collectors."*

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FIVE NUDES BY SANYU

Leading the sale this season is Sanyu's ***Five Nudes*** (image on previous page). The highest estimated work offered at auction in Asia so far this year, *Five Nudes* is the largest painting of nude figures Sanyu ever created, and is the only painting to feature five figures in a single composition – the greatest number in his entire oeuvre. A masterpiece without compare, ***Five Nudes*** represents the magnum opus of Sanyu's artistic career.

YOSHITOMO NARA'S DEFINING MASTERWORK



YOSHITOMO NARA (B. 1959)
Can't Wait 'til the Night Comes
acrylic on canvas
193.2 x 183.2 cm. (76 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 72 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.)
Painted in 2012
Estimate on request

An additional focal point this season is **Yoshitomo Nara's *Can't Wait 'til the Night Comes***, an important masterpiece of Contemporary art. The work will be offered in a stand-alone, single lot auction, directly following the 23 November Evening Sale of 20th Century & Contemporary Art. This marks an unprecedented sale strategy in Hong Kong, which highlights the painting's tremendous importance within both the artist's oeuvre and the offerings at auction this season. ***Can't Wait 'til the Night Comes*** has been specifically requested by the artist to be featured as a major highlight of his upcoming survey exhibition which will debut at the LACMA, Los Angeles and will then travel to the Yuz Museum in Shanghai, Guggenheim Bilbao, and the Kunsthall Rotterdam.

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A SELECTION OF IMPORTANT PAINTINGS BY ZAO WOU-KI

Christie's has consistently been the market-leader for works by Zao Wou-Ki, and this season is no exception. Leading the impressive line-up of works is **24.12.59**, a striking painting that bridges the artist's Oracle Bone and Hurricane periods. Completed on Christmas Eve 1959, the ingenious interplay of light, colour and shadow suggests the breathtaking image of northern lights piercing the darkness. **Cité se Réveille (Rising City)**, **10.03.85** and **27.03.70** (from The Collection of Eileen and I.M. Pei) are also paintings from different periods that illustrate the dramatic evolution of Zao's painting styles over the course of his lifetime and long career.



ZAO WOU-KI (1920-2013)

24.12.59

oil on canvas

160.7 x 111.8 cm. (63 1/4 x 44 in.)

Painted in 1959

HK\$ 80,000,000 – 120,000,000 / US\$ 11,000,000 – 15,000,000



ZAO WOU-KI (1920-2013)

10.03.85

oil on canvas

97 x 195 cm. (38 1/5 x 76 3/4 in.)

Painted in 1985

HK\$ 20,000,000 – 30,000,000 / US\$ 2,600,000 – 3,800,000



ZAO WOU-KI (1920-2013)

Cité se Réveille (Rising City)

oil on canvas

65 x 100.2 cm. (25 5/8 x 39 1/2 in.)

Painted in 1956

HK\$ 30,000,000 – 40,000,000 / US\$ 3,900,000 – 5,100,000

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A MASTERPIECE BY KIM WHAN-KI

Kim Whan-Ki's monumental canvas **05-IV-71 #200 (Universe)** is widely regarded to be one of the most important paintings in the artist's oeuvre, and is one of the major highlights of the season. The only diptych that the artist ever painted, the paired canvases suggest duality, embodying the contradictory yet complimentary forces that make up the core energies of the universe. This is also the largest painting that Kim ever created, with the greatest range of blues, and has resided in the collection of Dr. Matthew Kim for the past 40 years, since it was purchased directly from the artist the year of its completion.



PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF MATTHEW KIM AND CHAE KUM KIM
KIM WHAN-KI (1913-1974)
05-IV-71 #200 (Universe)
oil on cotton (diptych)
each panel: 254 x 127 cm. (100 x 50 in.)
overall: 254 x 254 cm. (100 x 100 in.)
Painted in 1971
HK\$48,000,000-62,000,000 / US\$6,000,000-8,000,000

A STUNNING NUDE BY LÉONARD TSUGUHARU FOUJITA

Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita's ***Nu allongé au bras levé (Nude lying with raised arm)*** is a rare example of a large-scale nude painting from Foujita's mature "milky white" style of painting. Among currently known examples of Foujita's paintings of a single nude figure, there exist only eight works that boast dimensions equal to or greater than this work; four of those eight reside in institutional collections. The painting depicts Lucie Badoul, Foujita's muse and third wife, also known as Youki.

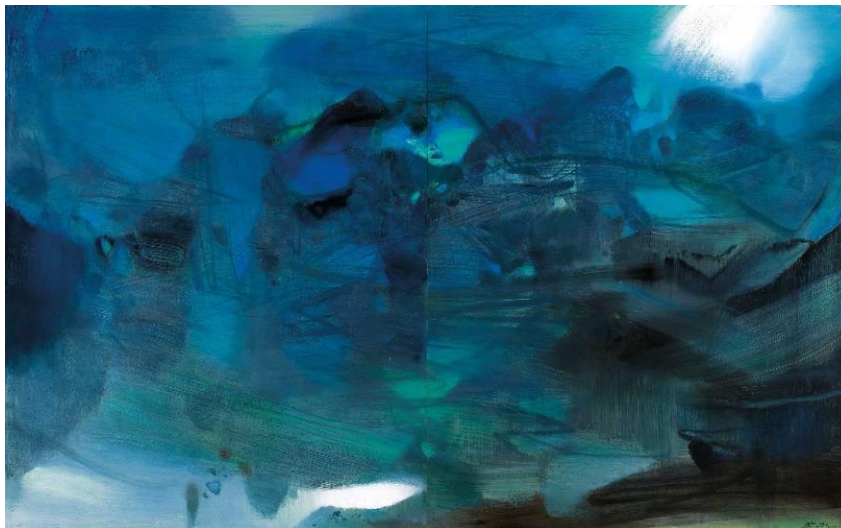


PROPERTY OF AN IMPORTANT RUSSIAN PRIVATE COLLECTOR
FOUJITA (LÉONARD TSUGUHARU, 1886-1968)
Nu allongé au bras levé (Nude lying with raised arm)
oil on canvas
89 x 146 cm. (35 x 57 1/2 in.)
Painted in 1924
HK\$ 25,000,000 – 35,000,000 / US\$ 3,300,000 – 4,500,000

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A SIGNIFICANT DIPTYCH BY CHU TEH-CHUN

Chu Teh-Chun's *Une belle journée (A Beautiful Day)* is a brilliant example of his large-scale paintings which explore the evocative potential of abstract light and colour on canvas. The work, with its rich layering of blue and green pigments, evokes the grand power of sea and sky, and was painted during the early 80s when the artist turned his focus to the exploration of colour and hue. Diptychs of this size and scale rarely appear on the market, and Christie's is proud to present it among the selection of masterpieces on offer this season.



CHU TEH-CHUN (ZHU DEQUN, 1920-2014)
Une belle journée (A Beautiful Day)

oil on canvas (diptych)

each panel: 162 x 130 cm. (63 3/4 x 51 1/8 in.)

overall: 162 x 260 cm. (63 3/4 x 102 3/8 in.)

Painted in 1982

HK\$25,000,000-35,000,000 / US\$3,300,000-4,500,000

CONTEMPORARY HIGHLIGHTS

Rounding out the selection of highlights offered in this season's Evening Sale is a group of artworks by sought-after contemporary artists from around the world. Yayoi Kusama's *Self Portrait (OPXTO)* is a stunning example of the artist's figurative painting style featuring her signature patterns and polka-dots. Liu Ye's *Red No. 2* is one of three paintings by the Chinese contemporary artist that will be presented in the Evening sale this season, while Kazuo Shiraga's *Fudo Gomagu* is a dramatic fiery-hued painting from the 1970s.



KAZUO SHIRAGA (1924-2008)

Fudo Gomagu

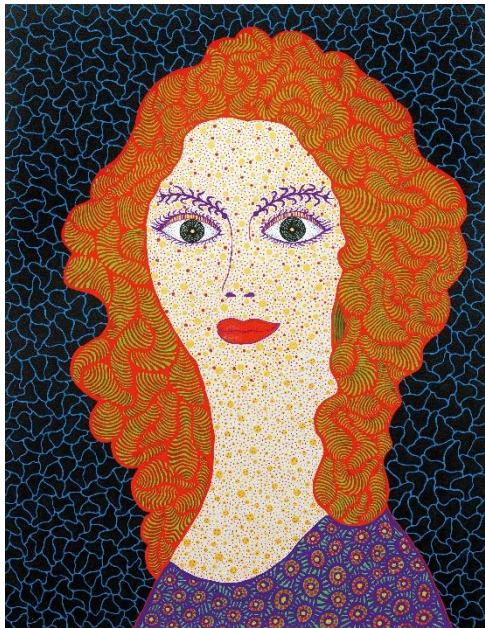
oil on canvas

97.2 x 130.4 cm. (38 1/4 x 51 3/8 in.)

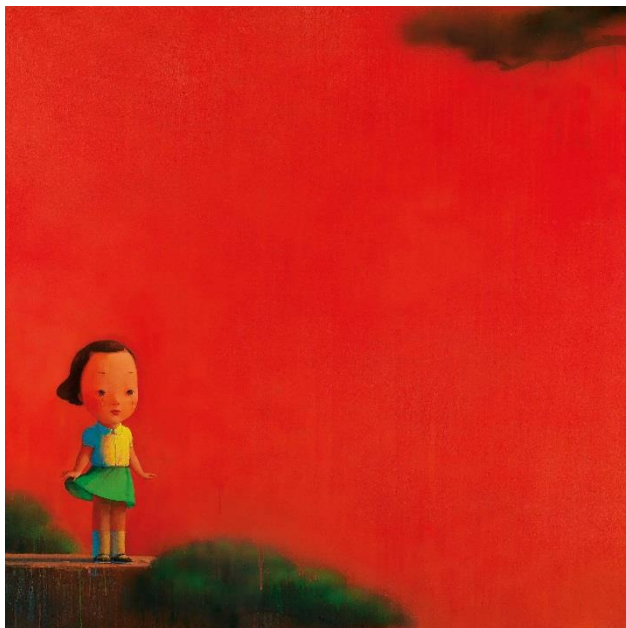
Executed in 1974

HK\$8,000,000 – 12,000,000 / US\$1,100,000 – 1,500,000

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YAYOI KUSAMA (B. 1929)
Self-Portrait (OPXTO)
acrylic on canvas
145.5 x 112 cm. (57 1/4 x 44 1/8 in.)
Painted in 2010
HK\$5,800,000-8,000,000 / US\$750,000-1,000,000



LIU YE (B. 1964)
Red No. 2
acrylic on canvas
195 x 195 cm. (76 3/4 x 76 3/4 in.)
Painted in 2003
HK\$12,000,000-18,000,000 / US\$1,600,000-2,300,000,000

NOTES TO EDITORS

20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sales

DATE: 23 NOVEMBER 2019

LOCATION: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, HK

Additional Evening Sale – HI- LITE

The HI-LITE sale on 23 November features artwork by some of today's top contemporary artists, whose neo-pop aesthetic, and connection to commercial art, cartoons, and street culture have gained them a global cult following. Many of the pieces selected for this sale employ a similar visual style featuring bold flattened forms, bright colors, and clean lines, referencing images appropriated from popular media and fashion, music, graffiti and animation.



TAKASHI MURAKAMI; & PHARRELL WILLIAMS (B. 1962) & (B. 1973)
The Simple Things
fiberglass, steel, LED light system, acrylic and 7 objects made of gold (white, yellow, and pink) set with rubies, sapphires, emeralds and diamonds
sculpture: 78 (H) x 110 x 101 cm. (30 3/4 x 43 1/4 x 39 3/4 in.)
stand: 110 (H) x 80 x 75 cm. (43 1/4 x 31 1/2 x 29 1/2 in.)
overall: 188 (H) x 110 x 101 cm. (74 x 43 1/4 x 39 3/4 in.)
Executed in 2008 – 2009

HK\$20,000,000 – 30,000,000
US\$2,600,000 – 3,800,000

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IMAGE DOWNLOAD [LINK](#)

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.*

Images available on request

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