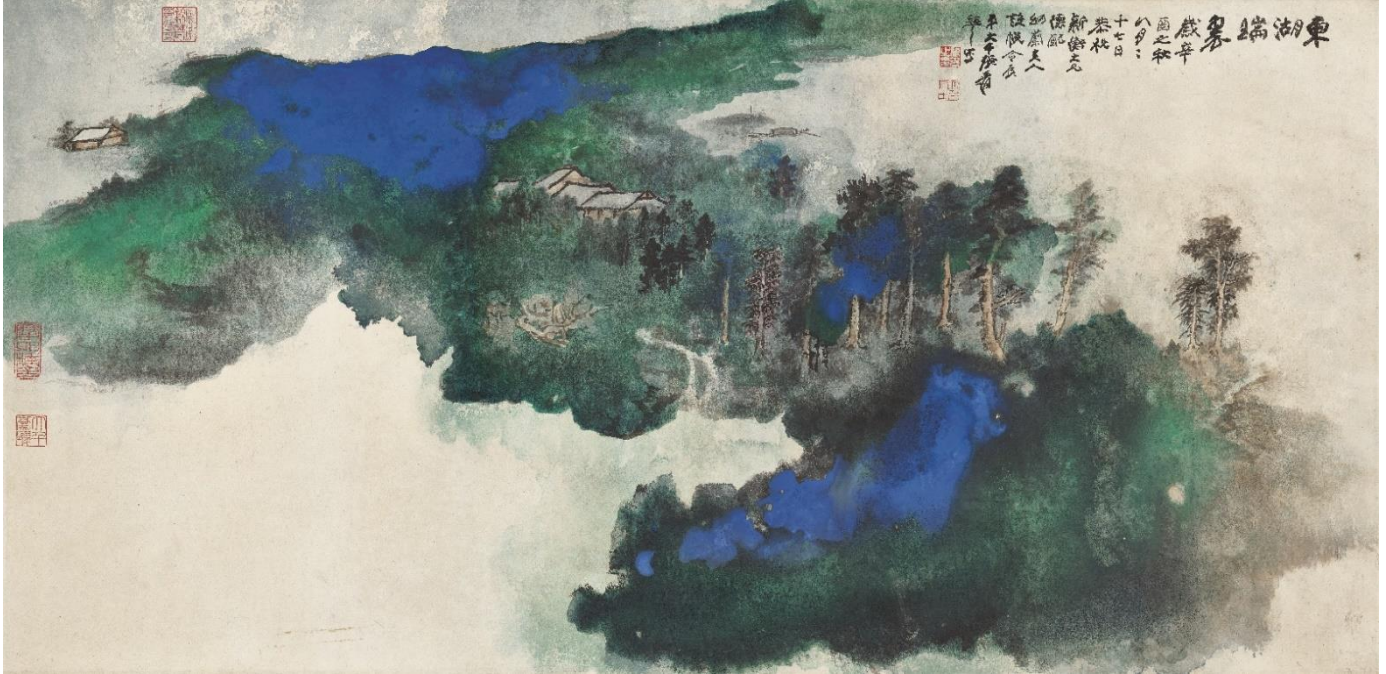


# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | HONG KONG | 17 JUNE 2020

## Christie's Hong Kong Chinese Paintings Department Presents **Important Artworks from Distinguished Private Collections** Led by Zhang Daqian's *Verdant East Lake*



IMPORTANT CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE WANG HSIN-HENG FAMILY

ZHANG DAQIAN (1899-1983)

*Verdant East Lake*

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper

66.5 x 136 cm. (26 1/4 x 53 1/2 in.)

Dated 1981

Estimate: HK\$40,000,000-60,000,000 / US\$5,200,000-7,800,000

**HONG KONG** - From classical masters to 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century pioneers, on 8 July Christie's will offer an outstanding selection of Chinese paintings sourced from notable private collections around the world.

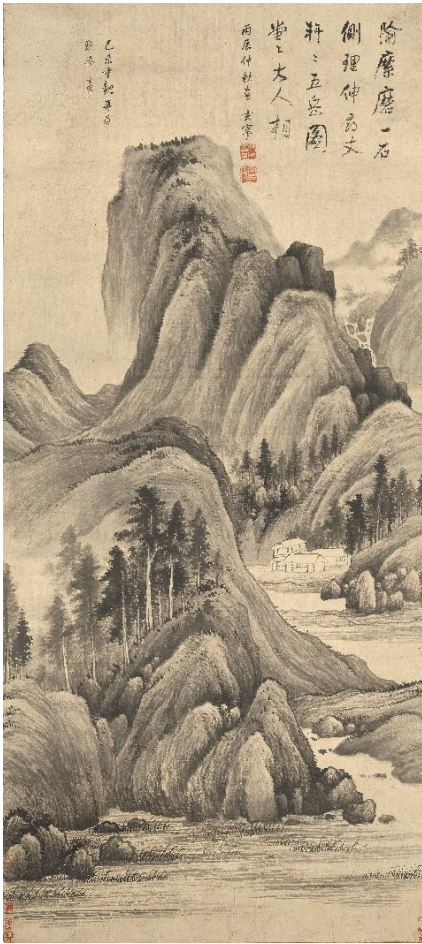
Presented across two sales - **Fine Chinese Classical Paintings And Calligraphy** and **Fine Chinese Modern And Contemporary Ink Paintings**, will offer some of the most sought after works from the Yuan dynasty through to the present, showcasing a breadth of distinctive styles and techniques.

**Ben Kong, Chairman, Chinese Paintings Department**, commented "This season, numerous highlights are from prominent private collections with exceptional provenance, having been passed down through generations. Some of the paintings once belonged to the most renowned collectors across Asia. The selection of works epitomises the best examples of Chinese paintings through the ages, from classical compositions by **Dong Qichang, Qian Xuan** and **Wang Hui**, through to works by modern masters such as **Zhang Daqian, Wu Guanzhong** and **Jiang Zhaohe**."

**Kim Yu, International Specialist Head of Chinese Paintings Department**, added "The collection from the Wang Hsin-heng family in particular, testifies to the intertwining relationship between the history of 20th century China and the friendship between artists and collectors. The discovery of collections like this sheds light on the artist and his circle of friends in a very insightful manner."

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FINE CHINESE CLASSICAL PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY



**DONG QICHANG (1555-1636)**

***Five Sacred Mountains***

Hanging scroll, ink on paper

221 x 99 cm. (87 x 39 in.)

Estimate: HK\$20,000,000-25,000,000 / US\$2,600,000-3,200,000

Leading the classical paintings sale this season is the monumental ***Five Sacred Mountains*** by **Dong Qichang** - an influential calligrapher, painter, theorist, and connoisseur.

The work is one of the artist's largest surviving works, dazzling viewers with its pictorial and conceptual brilliance. The painting is accompanied by an illustrious provenance, having been included in the collections of Tu Zhuo (1781-1828), Tang Yifen (1778-1853), and Chen Baojin (19th Century). In the early 20th century, it belonged to the scholar Luo Zhenyu (1866-1940), who brought it to Japan and sold it to the renowned collector Saito Etsuzo (1872-?). Furthermore, its accompanying wooden box bears the inscriptions and collector's seals of prominent Japanese cultural figures Naito Torajiro (1866-1934) and Uzan Nagao (1864-1942). In 1928, ***Five Sacred Mountains*** was exhibited at the Tokyo Museum of Art, further adding to its prestige and reputation.

Another masterpiece with rich provenance is ***Endless Streams and Mountains*** by **Wang Hui**. The artist painted five versions of the work, with the current work being the only known to be still in private hands.

Created by **Wang Hui** more than three hundred years ago, ***Endless Streams and Mountains*** first entered the private collections of the Zhang Dayong family and the Weng Tongjue family. During the turbulent years of the interregnum in the early 20th century, the renowned Shanghai collector and connoisseur Chen Rentao (1906-1968) acquired this painting and later brought it with him to Hong Kong, where it has been kept in his family ever since.



PROPERTY OF MR. CHEN RENTAO – CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE KING KWEI COLLECTION

**WANG HUI (1632-1717)**

***Endless Streams and Mountains***

Handscroll, ink and colour on paper

53.2 x 1220.5 cm. (21 x 480 ½ in.)

Estimate: HK\$3,000,000-5,000,000 / US\$390,000-650,000

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Another exciting highlight is ***Crabapple*** by **Qian Xuan**. Qian was considered one of the Eight Masters of Wuxing, and as a testament to his exceptional rendition of birds and flowers, Qian Xuan's name, alongside his paintings, can be found repeatedly in Yuan and Ming poems.

In the present work, the artist's exquisite and delicate brushstrokes are on full display, along with his characteristic approach of rendering a simple composition by employing delicate brush line and soft colours.

***Crabapple*** was once in the private collection of the Date family in Sendai, Japan. Date Masamune (1567-1636), founder of the Sendai domain, was not only a skilful warlord but also a passionate art collector across different cultures, including Chinese paintings. The Date family donated more than 13,000 artworks to the Sendai City Museum in 1961.

Owned by the renowned Japanese industrialist Kyohei Magoshi (1844- 1933) in the early 20th century, ***Crabapple*** was exhibited in 1928 at the Tokyo Museum of Art together with more than 600 Chinese painting masterpieces, including Dong Qichang's ***Five Sacred Mountains***.



PREVIOUSLY IN THE DATE FAMILY COLLECTION  
QIAN XUAN (CIRCA 1235-AFTER 1301)  
***Crabapple***

Hanging scroll, ink and colour on paper  
76 x 29.5 cm. (29 7/8 x 11 3/4 in.)

Estimate: HK\$5,000,000-6,000,000 / US\$650,000-780,000

## FINE CHINESE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY INK PAINTINGS



IMPORTANT CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE WANG HSIN-HENG FAMILY  
ZHANG DAQIAN (1899-1983)  
***Verdant East Lake***

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper  
66.5 x 136 cm. (26 1/8 x 53 1/2 in.)

Dated autumn, *xinyou* year (1981)

Estimate: HK\$40,000,000-60,000,000 / US\$5,200,000-7,800,000

Presented this season is an exceptional collection from the Wang Hsin-Heng Family, comprising 21 works by **Zhang Daqian** and various artists. Wang Hsin-heng first met **Zhang Daqian** in 1951 at the artist's exhibition in Taiwan. The two became close friends when **Zhang Daqian** moved to Taipei. Along with important political figures Zhang Xueliang and Zhan Qun, the group of four formed a roundabout club "Three Zhang and One Wang", taking turns to host monthly dinners at each other's homes.

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Resulting from this friendship with **Zhang Daqian**, the Wang's family collection, partly offered in the present sale, largely dates back to the 1970s and the 1980s. Many of these works are related to birthdays and celebrations dedicated to Wang Hsin-heng and his wife.

Presented as a birthday gift for Madame Youlan, the wife of Wang Hsin-heng, **Verdant East Lake** was created by Zhang at his Taipei residence in 1981.

**Verdant East Lake** was greatly cherished by Wang Hsin-heng and his wife, and hung in pride of place in their family living room for many decades.



IMPORTANT CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE WANG HSIN-HENG FAMILY  
PU RU (1896-1963)

**Album of Paintings and Calligraphy (Details)**

Thread-bound book, 66 leaves, ink and colour on paper

Each leaf measures 30.5 x 17.6 cm. (12 x 6 7/8 in.)

Dated summer, sixth month, *renchen* year (1952)

Estimate: HK\$3,000,000-5,000,000 / US\$390,000-650,000



A further highlight of the sale are two figure paintings by **Jiang Zhaohe** – an artist celebrated for his realistic figure paintings which reflect profound artistic humanitarianism.

Jiang's artistic legacy has gained momentum in recent decades, as more purportedly-lost works have re-emerged in public exhibitions and academic publications.

The sale presents two treasured works from **Jiang Zhaohe's** first publication from the 1940s, sourced from private overseas collections. Offering these works will further excite interest in **Jiang Zhaohe's** early artistic creations and benefit scholars and collectors.

**Happy New Year** comes from the family collection of Mr. Matthew Keating, who met the artist when he worked for Royal Dutch Shell in China. The work was displayed at many **Jiang Zhaohe** exhibitions, while a reproduction was exhibited at the National Museum Exhibition in 2014. The sale marks the painting's first reappearance in Asia after it left China 70 years ago.

PROPERTY FROM A PRIVATE ENGLISH COLLECTION  
**JIANG ZHAOHE (1904-1986)**

**Happy New Year**

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper

104.5 x 53.8 cm. (41 1/8 x 21 1/8 in.)

Dated New Year's Day, twenty-ninth year (of the Republic, 1940)

Estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000 / US\$130,000-190,000

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From the collection of former American military officer George F. Dales (1927-1992), ***Old Man*** epitomises Jiang's proclivity for painting the elderly. Much like ***Happy New Year***, the portrait was acquired directly from the artist, while Dales was stationed in China. In the composition, Jiang employed a Western treatment of light and shadow and with meticulous detail and depth.

FROM PRIVATE NORTH AMERICAN COLLECTION  
JIANG ZHAOHE (1904-1986)  
***Old Man***

Hanging scroll, ink and colour on paper  
66 x 45.5 cm. (26 x 17 ¾ in.)

Dated twenty-eighth year (of the Republic, 1939)

Estimate: HK\$1,200,000-2,000,000 / US\$160,000-260,000



PROPERTY OF AN AMERICAN WEST COAST COLLECTOR  
WU GUANZHONG (1919-2010)

***The Yulong Mountains in the Moonlight***

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper  
67 x 132 cm. (26 ¾ x 52 in.)

Dated 1988

Estimate: HK\$4,000,000-6,000,000 / US\$520,000-780,000

Wu Guanzhong painted ***The Yulong Mountains in the Moonlight*** in 1988, ten years after his first visit to the Yulong Mountains in Yunnan. His fascination with the Yulong Mountains came from a postcard featuring a sketch of the sweeping alps by his former classmate Li Lincan during the late 1930s. Li later became the deputy director of the Taipei National Palace Museum. Wu began to work in ink on paper in 1974. Through an inexhaustive creative process, the shadow cast by his oil paintings slowly faded away to allow Wu to create his distinct visual identity in his ink paintings. By integrating Western and Chinese principles and concepts, he created a unique and modern semi-abstract artistic style.

More features on Christies.com:

- [Zhang Daqian: A guide to China's most popular artist](#)
- [Wu Guanzhong - 'An artist of feeling rather than fact'](#)
- [Collecting Guide: 7 things to know about Chinese traditional painting](#)

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

FINE CHINESE CLASSICAL PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY

FINE CHINESE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY INK PAINTINGS

EXHIBITION DATE: 4-7 JULY 2020

LOCATION: 21/F. Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place; Hong Kong

AUCTION DATE: 8 JULY 2020

LOCATION: 22/F. Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road, Central, HK

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## About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in 2019 that totalled £4.5 billion / \$5.8 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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