

# CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | HONG KONG | 28 SEPTEMBER 2020 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THREE MASTERPIECES BY ZAO WOU-KI TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S THIS FALL

Led by the Monumental *15.01.82* Triptych  
And Two Important Paintings from Zao's Hurricane Period



**ZAO WOU-KI (ZHAO WUJI, 1920-2013)**

**15.01.82**

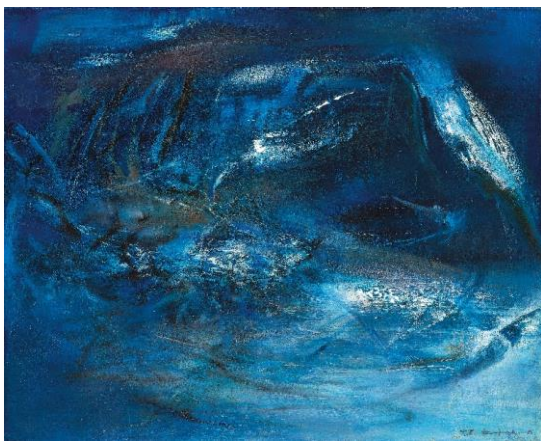
oil on canvas (triptych)

each: 195 x 130 cm. (76 3/4 x 51 1/8 in.) (3)

overall: 195 x 390 cm. (76 5/8 x 153 1/2 in.)

Painted in 1982

**HK\$70,000,000 – 120,000,000**



**ZAO WOU-KI (ZHAO WUJI, 1920-2013)**

**09.03.65**

oil on canvas

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

Painted in 1965

**HK\$60,000,000 – 80,000,000**



**ZAO WOU-KI (ZHAO WUJI, 1920-2013)**

**20.1.67**

oil on canvas

150 x 162 cm.

Painted in 1967

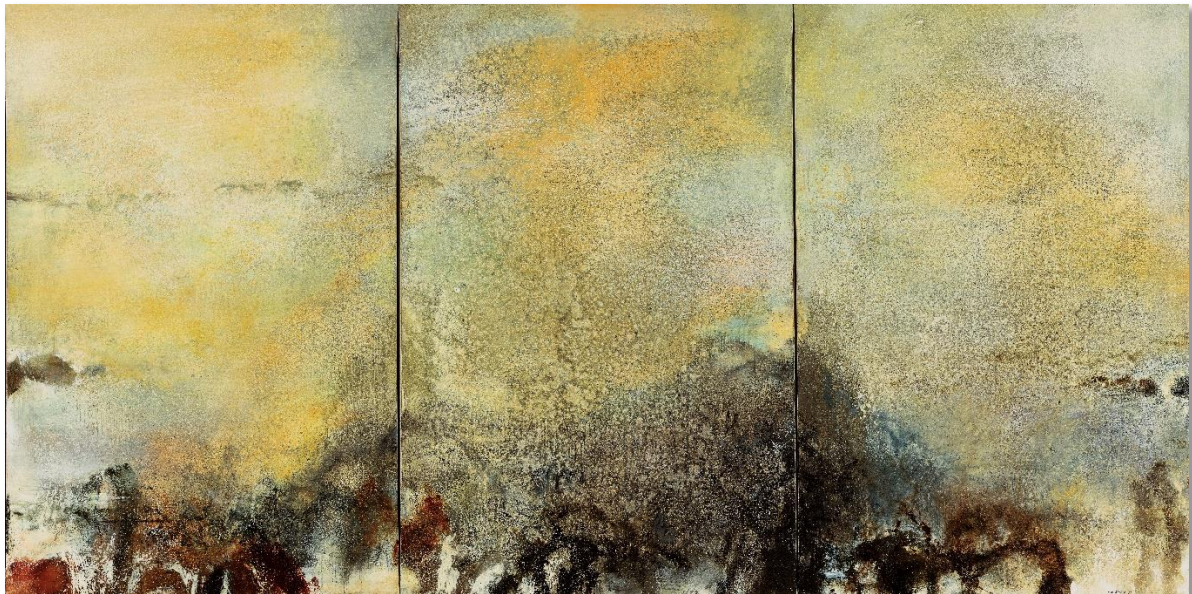
**HK\$58,000,000 – 78,000,000**



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**Hong Kong** – On 2 December 2020, Christie's will present three important works by **Zao Wou-Ki** as important highlights of the Modern and Contemporary Art Evening Sale in Hong Kong: **15.01.82** (estimate: HK\$70,000,000 – 120,000,000), **09.03.65** (estimate: HK\$60,000,000 – 80,000,000) and **20.1.67** (estimate: HK\$58,000,000 – 78,000,000). All three paintings will be exhibited in the Christie's Hong Kong galleries at Alexandra House from October 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

The Chinese-born French academician and writer François Cheng wrote of Zao Wou-Ki's achievement, "Chinese painting stagnated for more than a century, but that impasse looks to be drawing to an end. The long-awaited, genuine coexistence between China and the West now appears for the first time." Christie's is honored to present three masterpieces by Zao Wou-Ki this season, each work embodying a variation in the unique merging of cultural influences in Zao's life, highlighting his role as pioneer and harbinger of a new epoch in modern art and aesthetic history.

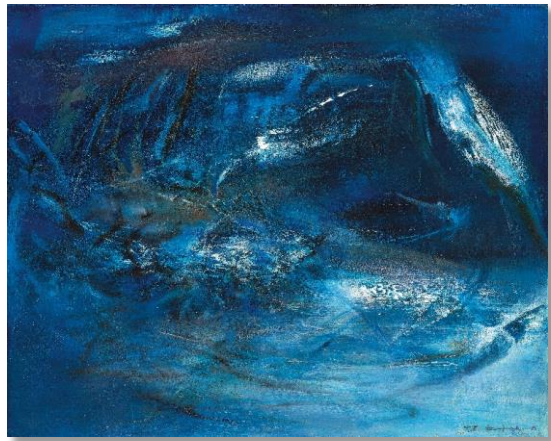


Over the course of Zao Wou-Ki's life, the artist painted 20 large-scale triptychs. Of these, only four – including the present work – have ever appeared at auction. **15.01.82** is magnificent example, and a monumental masterpiece by Zao. Following the success of Zao's solo show at the Grand Palais in Paris – his first exhibition at a national museum in over 30 years – **15.01.82** was created during a golden period in Zao's career, and was included in the artist's first touring exhibitions in China and Taiwan to be held in several decades, when his work was receiving unprecedented recognition and celebration in both France and China.

**15.01.82** is the only triptych within Zao's oeuvre featuring an yellow ochre background and an ascending composition, where vibrant splashes of colour produce an imposing vigour and atmospheric charge, evoking the raw power and magnificence of nature. The painting's composition, brushstrokes and splashes, resembling roaring waves or driving snow, embody the concept of transcending space and time expressed in Chinese scroll paintings, while the shimmering colors and layered media showcases various painting techniques. Diluted paints create an ink-like quality, creating an immersive visual experience that extends beyond the canvas, bringing together the artist's diverse influences into a single masterwork.

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**09.03.65** is a work from Zao's Hurricane Period, created during the 1960s at the pinnacle of the artist's stylistic maturity. Works from this period are considered to be among Zao Wou-Ki's most wild and free in brushwork. Shades of blue in **09.03.65** are the main focal point, turning the background into a key element of the composition and an important source of tension and emotional impact. **09.03.65** is the ultimate, purest expression of the color blue among Zao's similarly hued paintings from the Hurricane Period, demonstrating his sophisticated use of monochromatic colour and masterful control of oil.



**20.1.67** manifests the artist's unique expressive style with a palette restricted to black and white. The work reveals a breathtakingly dramatic play of light and shadow, demonstrating Zao's remarkable use of monochromatic tones, interaction between painted and blank areas, and distinctive spatial arrangement. In **20.1.67**, Zao incorporated elements of traditional Chinese landscape painting such as ink wash and textural brushwork to create a dream-like abstract landscape composition. Realising the innate ideals and aesthetics of Song Dynasty, there is a playful contrast between the dichotomies of ancient and modern, east and west. This extremely rare work has been privately

owned for decades and is now appearing at auction for the first time.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Hong Kong 2020 Autumn Office Preview

**Venue:** 22/F Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road, Hong Kong

**Viewing Date / Time:** Saturday, 3rd October – Wednesday, 7th October, 10:30am – 5:30pm

### Modern and Contemporary Art Evening Sale

**Auction:** 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

**Viewing:** 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

**Venue:** Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, HK

**Image Download Link:** please click [here](#)

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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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