

CHRISTIE'S 佳士得

PRESS RELEASE | HONG KONG | 29 MARCH 2021 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG CHINESE PAINTINGS
DEPARTMENT PRESENTS**

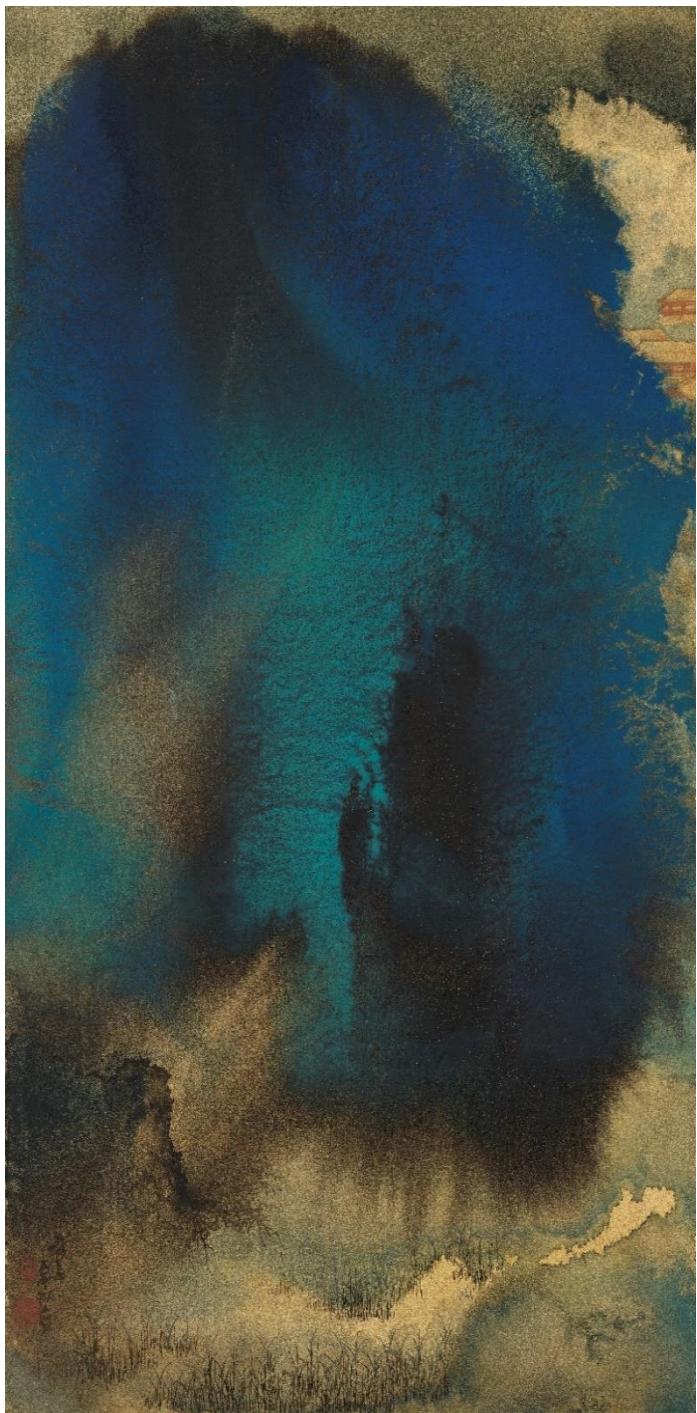
**EXCEPTIONAL MASTERPIECES FROM
THE CLASSICAL TO THE MODERN AGE**

Live Auction | 26 & 27 May

Previews

Beijing | 24 – 25 April
Shanghai | 28 – 29 April
Taipei | 1 – 2 May
Hong Kong | 20 – 25 May

CHRISTIE'S 佳士得



ZHANG DAQIAN (1899-1983)

Temple at the Mountain Peak

Hanging scroll, ink and colour on gold paper
127.3 x 63 cm. (50½ x 24¾ in.)

Dated 1967

Estimate On Request



Tailor-made cloisonné scroll knob specially
designed by Da Feng Tang, Zhang Daqian's studio

HONG KONG - From classical masters to modern pioneers, Christie's will offer an outstanding collection of coveted masterpieces for auction on 26th and 27th May. These masterworks represent pivotal moments in Chinese art history, with timeless works from leading Qing dynasty artist Zhang Zongcang, to 20th century masters such as Zhang Daqian, Wu Guanzhong, Fu Baoshi, and Li Keran.

Kim Yu, International Specialist Head of Chinese Paintings Department, commented: "The incredible selection of masterpieces showcases some of the most important paintings by iconic Chinese artists. These works span multiple eras and celebrate the highest levels of artistic achievement in Chinese history. We are honoured to be offering such a sensational line up of works this May, and look forward to convening global collectors together at this important moment in the art market."

The leading highlight of the season is the magnificent *Temple at the Mountain Peak* by Zhang Daqian (Left). Painted on luxurious gold paper and splashed in rich and vibrant mineral colours of blue and green, this monumental splashed ink painting was created in 1967 and is considered one of the most representative examples during the artist's residence in Brazil.

The work has a storied past and was previously in the collection of Li Zulai and his wife Li Deying. Zhang Daqian and Li Zulai had an intimate friendship, to the extent where Zhang relied on the Li family to oversee his commercial development from 1949. The Li family also helped organize the exhibition *Recent Paintings by Chang Dai-Chien* at the Hong Kong City Hall in 1971.

The work is grand in scale and unique in that it was specially mounted in Zhang Daqian's studio in Japan with luxurious Japanese patterned silk fabric and decorated with a tailor-made blue-and-white cloisonné scroll knob with the artist's seal "san qian da qian", which translates to "three thousand Daqians".

Also offered this season is a masterpiece from the classical period, *Wutong Studio in Autumn* by Zhang Zongcang (Top of next page) - one of the most favored artists by the Qianlong Emperor during the Qing Dynasty.

The exquisitely painted handscroll depicts the idyllic surroundings of Wutong Studio, a noted structure in the Old Summer Palace. The artist used sophisticated dry brushwork to delineate the textures of the mountains and rocks. At the centre of the painting is a scholar dressed in red, possibly the Emperor, graciously contemplating while getting ready to read or study.



ZHANG ZONGCANG (1686-1756)

Wutong Studio in Autumn

Handscroll, ink and colour on paper

32.5 x 150 cm. (12 1/4 x 59 1/4 in.)

Estimate: HK\$55,000,000 – 75,000,000 / US\$7,100,000 – 9,600,000

This work was once part of the Qing imperial collection and was published in the authoritative catalogue *Catalogue of the Paintings and Calligraphy in the Imperial Collection Part III (Shiqu Baoji Sanbian)*. Emperor Qianlong inscribed a poem on the painting and imprinted many imperial seals on it, further confirming the importance of its artistic value to the Emperor and his court.

An additional highlight is **Chess Playing** by Fu Baoshi (below Left). This classical composition stands as one of the greatest examples of the artist's sublime skill in figure painting during the Jingangpo period when the artist resided in Chongqing.

Fu Baoshi expertly depicts historical figures in an elegant yet animated manner as the three figures play chess deep in the forest – a theme that is rare in his oeuvre.

The painting comes with strong provenance, having been in the renowned private collections in Hong Kong and Macao, as seen in the collectors' seals of Huang Weixiong and Deng Cangwu from the 1960s – 1970s.

A further highlight is Li Keran's iconic political painting **A Million Strong Across the Yangtze** (below Right). The work was created on the advent of the fifteenth year of the founding of the People's Republic of China. It is the artist's interpretation of Mao Zedong's poem *People's Liberation Army Captures Nanjing*, depicting an army of battleships in the foreground, while the sight of Nanjing city can be seen through the stormy weather in the distance.



FU BAOSHI (1904-1965)

Chess Playing

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper

87.5 x 59.3 cm. (34 1/2 x 23 3/8 in.)

Dated 1943



LI KERAN (1907-1989)

A Million Strong Across the Yangtze

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper

62.8 x 55.2 cm. (24 3/4 x 21 3/4 in.)

Dated 1964

Estimate: HK\$25,000,000 – 30,000,000 / US\$3,200,000 – 3,800,000

Estimate: HK\$40,000,000 – 50,000,000 / US\$5,100,000 – 6,400,000

CHRISTIE'S 佳士得

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



WU GUANZHONG (1919-2010)
Scenery of Mount Lao

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper
96.2 x 179.3 cm. (37 1/8 x 70 5/8 in.)

Dated 1988

Estimate: HK\$26,000,000 – 30,000,000 / US\$3,300,000 – 3,800,000

江南風物近身多
雨中木樨繁香大隱
秋雲散淡月明中
孤松一枝寒影瘦
——吳冠中



PAN TIANSHOU (1897-1971)
Han on Rock

Hanging scroll, ink and colour on paper
148.5 x 41 cm. (58 1/2 x 16 1/8 in.)

Dated 1956

Estimate: HK\$18,000,000 – 28,000,000 / US\$2,300,000 – 3,600,000



ZHANG DAQIAN (1899-1983)
Landscape Hidden in Mist After Bi Hong

Hanging scroll, ink and colour on paper

213 x 75 cm. (83 1/8 x 29 1/2 in.)

Dated 1942

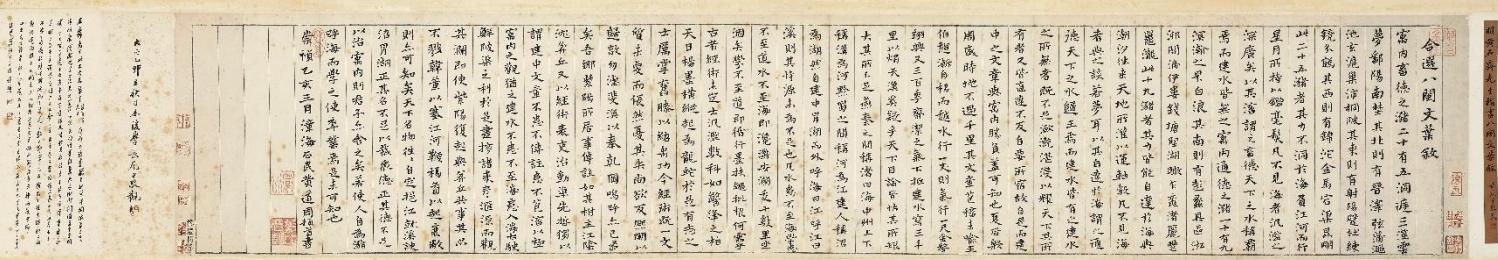
Estimate: HK\$18,000,000 – 28,000,000 / US\$2,300,000 – 3,600,000

HUANG DAOZHOU (1585-1646)
Small-character Calligraphy in Standard Script

Scroll, mounted and framed, ink on paper
28 x 153.5 cm. (11 x 60 5/8 in.)

Dated 1635

Estimate: HK\$4,200,000 – 6,200,000 / US\$540,000 – 790,000



CHRISTIE'S 佳士得

NOTES TO EDITOR

Preview:

Beijing | 24 – 25 April | No.82 Jinbao Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Shanghai | 28 – 29 April | Ampire Building, No. 97 Yuanmingyuan Road, Shanghai

Taipei | 1 – 2 May | Grand Space, Marriott Taipei, 3F, No. 199, Lequn 2nd Road, ZhongShan District, Taipei

Hong Kong | 20 – 25 May | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No. 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Auction:

Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy

Date : 26 May 2021

Fine Chinese Modern and Contemporary Ink Paintings

Date : 27 May 2021

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

Press contact: Gigi Ho | +852 2978 6719 | gigiho@christies.com

Image download: Please click [HERE](#)

About Christie's

Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. 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 clients and online sales are offered year-round across all categories. Christie's global presence is spread across a network of international salerooms and 61 representatives and offices. Christies.com provides detailed articles and videos on the objects offered for sale alongside the latest advances in digital viewing tools to make Christie's accessible to all.

*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

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

