

CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG LAUNCHES CHRISTIE'S ART FORUM DURING THE AUTUMN 2012 SALE SEASON

*THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT WILL CONTINUE IN 2013
CONFIRMING CHRISTIE'S LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO THE ART COMMUNITY*



Hong Kong – In autumn 2012, Christie's introduced the inaugural **Christie's Art Forum**, a platform of events that included gallery tours, lectures, exhibitions, and panel discussions featuring leading international artists and key industry figures. For the first series of events in October, Christie's collaborated with The Barnes Foundation. The program comprised a lecture exploring Barnes' approach to collecting and displaying art, and a panel discussion that reflected on the ways in which artists from the East and West are distinct, yet continually inspiring to one another. A second series of events was presented during the auction week in November. Highlights included a panel discussion hosted by Christie's specialists, Ken Yeh and Eric Chang, titled ***The Art World Becomes One***, and ***Ink: From Traditional to Contemporary***, a discussion led by artists Liu Dan and Qiu Zhijie, and renowned academic Pi Daojian.

Each of the events was well-attended by a global audience of guests, characterized by a strong Asian quotient and supported by Europeans and North Americans. The total number of attendees for the Forum reached close to 500. The aim of the Forum was for collectors, industry professionals and art enthusiasts to share their opinions on all aspects of the art business. This initial program is part of a long-term strategy that builds on Christie's traditions of exploring dynamic opportunities in the expanding world of art.

Jonathan Stone, Chairman and International Head of Asian Art, said, *"Through this platform, Christie's opened a dialogue between artists, collectors and art market professionals from across the region and round the world about art and collecting. We explored the concept of "East Meets West", the evolution of traditional Chinese forms of expression and where the art market is going, what are the new developments, and what are the emerging trends. We plan to take this initiative further in Asia and overseas in 2013."*

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS:

Panel Discussion: *The Art World Becomes One*

Hosted by Ken Yeh, specialist in Impressionist & Modern Art and Chairman of Christie's Asia, and Eric Chang, Christie's International Director of Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art

Presented on Friday, November 23, 2012, this panel discussion compared the works of several Post-War & Contemporary and Impressionist artists from the West with modern and contemporary masters from the East. The specialists analyzed both the differences and similarities in aesthetic styles and techniques. The works of pioneering Chinese artists such as Zao Wou-Ki and Chu Teh-Chun were juxtaposed with Western revolutionaries like Jackson Pollock

and Sam Francis. The panelists discussed the idea that the Chinese abstract expressionist artists had paved the way for a new generation of artists, which drew upon their personal experiences, formal training and aesthetic philosophies to further engage with a Western style of creating art. The specialists also compared the paintings of Western contemporary artist Jean-Michel Basquiat with the works of Chinese contemporary painter Zeng Fanzhi, analyzing the ways in which both artists sought to create art that responded to the social issues of a particular time. The discussion concluded with the idea that the boundaries between the art markets of the East and West are blending, meaning that artists are no longer defined by their role as the best Eastern artist or the best Western artist, but instead, by their position as the best in global contemporary art.

Panel Discussion: *Ink: From Traditional to Contemporary*

Presented by international artists Liu Dan and Qiu Zhijie, and leading Chinese art historian, Pi Daojian

On Sunday, November 25, 2012, a launch reception and a panel discussion titled ***Ink: From Traditional to Contemporary*** was held to commemorate Christie's first Chinese Contemporary Ink Exhibition, ***Beyond Tradition***, which was also exhibited during the autumn auction week. Pi Daojian, a renowned scholar on the subject of Chinese contemporary art, was joined by two of the artists featured in the exhibition, Liu Dan and Qiu Zhijie. Both artists have been exhibited extensively around the world and have an international following. The panel explored the reasons behind the global appeal of the ink painting genre and the recent growth of the category in Europe and America, as well as Asia. The panelists discussed the ways the medium provides a link to the past, through which Chinese artists are able to reconnect with the traditional art process and reinterpret their classical heritage.

The ***Beyond Tradition*** exhibition will be followed by a series of contemporary ink private-sale exhibitions in 2013, beginning with New York in March and Hong Kong in May.

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ABOUT CHRISTIE'S ART FORUM

First launched during the autumn 2012 sale season at Christie's Hong Kong, *Christie's Art Forum* is a platform of events and educational initiatives, which foster visionary thinking and pioneering discourse on the subjects of art and collecting. Past events have included gallery tours, panel discussions, exhibitions and lectures, featuring international artists and leading industry figures. The aim is for collectors, industry professionals and art enthusiasts to share their ideas and observations on all aspects of the art business, and to promote Christie's profile as a thought leader. This program is part of a long-term strategy that confirms Christie's commitment to the community by introducing pioneering ways for the public to experience art.

ABOUT CHRISTIE'S

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 billion. For the first half of 2012, sales totaled £2.2 billion / \$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James

Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 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 and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*