

CHRISTIE'S 佳士得

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ERA OF ASIA, THE ART OF ASIA; THE BEAUTY AND VARIETY OF ASIAN ART



CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG PRESENTS ASIAN 20TH CENTURY & CONTEMPORARY ART SPRING AUCTIONS 2014

Hong Kong—Christie's will present three **Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art** auctions this season on 24th May and 25th May 2014. Featuring more than 600 works, the 2-day sales are estimated to realize in excess of HK\$570 million/ US\$70 million. We will expand further on the theme from last season "The Era of Asia, The Art of Asia". By combining exceptional works of art from different periods and regions, the world will discover the beauty and the variety of Asian art.

These three auctions will feature seven artistic themes –*The Natural And The Sublime, Transcendence And Abstraction, Patterns And Form, Myth And Enchantment, Portraits Of Ourselves, Portraits Of Others*, and *Reality Through The Kaleidoscope*, representing the diversity and possibilities in Asian Art. Highlights from Asian 20th Century Art include the historic painting *Eagles* (Illustrated top left) by Xu Beihong, *Potted Chrysanthemums* (Illustrated top right), painted by Sanyu 70 years ago, and which is being offered for the very first time at auction, as well as artworks by Zao Wou-ki and Chu Teh-chun. For Asian Contemporary Art, we will be offering exceptional works by Zeng Fanzhi, Liu Wei, Yue Minjun, Zhang Xiaogang and more. These artworks will demonstrate the true aspect of Asia and the situation of modern China.

Moreover, important paintings depicting Balinese subjects and themes will lead the collection of Southeast Asian art this season, including two works reflecting the rich ritual and ceremonial life in the island of Bali, including Affandi's *Penari Pendet (The Young Pendet Dancer)* from the collection of the esteemed Indonesian collector, Mr. Alex Papadimitriou, and Belgian artist Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur de Merprès' *Preparing Offerings*, a work documented in the single existing monograph of the artist. The leading generation of Southeast Asian contemporary artists born in the early 1970s, including I Nyoman Masriadi, Ronald Ventura, Geraldine Javier, Natee Utarit and Christine Ay Tjoe, is well-represented by fresh-to-market works that capture the zeitgeist of their times and reflect how these artists have developed since they first appeared in the contemporary art scene in the mid-2000s.

The Natural And The Sublime

Still life and landscape paintings are timeless subjects in the art histories of both the East and the West. Not only do they convey the sublime beauty of nature but they also reflect the perspective of the individual artist and their interpretation of their surroundings. While the artists in the West pursue a scientific categorization of their subjects, many artists in the East employ symbolic and metaphoric meanings in their approach toward still life and landscape painting. It is through even commonplace subjects that these Eastern artists succeed in leaving behind the ordinary and redirect the audience to a world of universal and sublime aesthetics. Still life and landscape paintings by Xu Beihong, Sanyu, He Duoling, Yee Bon, Liao Chi-Ch'un, Zhan Wang, Georgette Chen, and Lee Man Fong under this theme encompass five decades from the 1960s to the 2000s.

Highlights include *Eagles* by Xu Beihong (*Illustrated left on page 1*, Estimate: HK\$16,000,000–20,000,000/ US\$2,051,300–2,564,100). This artwork was painted between the late 1930s and the early 1940s. It belonged to Li Shizeng's family collection. Li is one of the most influential figures in Chinese modern history and embarked on his studies in France in 1902. He set up a factory in the countryside outside Paris, for which he hired Chinese workers, while at the same time he established a night school, initiating the "Work-Study" movement. *Eagles* can be interpreted as a depiction of the revival of revolutionary China during the 20th century, and is also a work of art filled with the spirit of humanity. From 1919 to 1920, around 1,900 students were subsidized by the government to visit France, including Lin Fengmian and Sanyu, who are the pioneers of 20th century Chinese art, Xu Beihong, who is the pioneer of Chinese realist art, as well as politicians such as Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping.

Transcendence And Abstraction



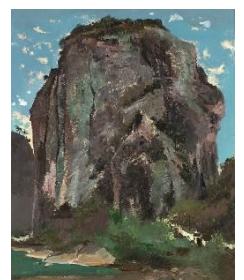
Zao Wou-Ki, Chu Teh-Chun, and Cheong Soo Pieng are the masters who merged Western-style abstraction with themes from Eastern landscapes, called *Shanshui*. Contrary to the Western landscape painting tradition, the Chinese canon breaks boundaries of time and single point perspective, encouraging the viewer to enter into and stroll inside the scene of the painting. The three artists in this section incorporated Eastern sensibility of *Shanshui* and Chinese calligraphy into concepts of Western modernism. They combined traditional Chinese ink-wash painting techniques with the brilliance of oil pigments, evoking beautiful mountain landscapes, and transforming the canvas into washes of rich lines and colours infused with depth and energy. They imbue modern paintings with the spirit of the East.

Two lots from the evening sale represent this theme Chu Teh-Chun's abstract ink painting *Composition No. 145* (*Illustrated left*, Estimates: HK\$9,000,000–11,000,000 / US\$1,153,800–1,410,300) and *06.11.72* by Zao Wou-Ki (Estimates: HK\$7,000,000–10,000,000 / US\$897,400–1,282,100). *06.11.72* comes from the collection of Bernard and Geneviève Anthonioz. Born in Switzerland in 1921, Bernard Anthonioz joined the cabinet of André Malraux, the French cultural minister, in 1958. He became a great ambassador for the French art and helped the artist obtain French nationality in 1964. Zao Wou-Ki was particularly close to the couple, and gave *06.11.72* to them as a token of their friendship.

This section is further highlighted by Zao Wou-Ki's *14.06.73*. Never shown to the public since its initial exhibition at the Heimeshoff Gallery in Essen in 1974, this painting is a powerful composition, encompassing all at once Zao's experience with ink painting, his return to his Chinese roots and the ability to draw inspiration from his inner self relating to 19th Century European painters. It stayed in the same European collection until today (Estimate: HK\$9,000,000–13,000,000/ US\$1,153,800–1,666,700).

Patterns And Form

Repetition of patterns and forms in Eastern painting are one of the pillars of traditional practice which made their way into modern abstract forms in the 20th Century. For many Asian artists, abstraction which focuses only on form and colour without substance or meaning becomes a mere decorative surface without any significance. Wu Guanzhong, Kim Whan-Ki, Lee Ufan, Ding Yi, and Mao Xuhui are the artists who probe more philosophical themes in the context of abstraction. They extract a geometrical primordial basis from nature and through ceaseless experiments of style and various



technical execution, they look to a dimension beyond geometry, by creating patterns and geometrical forms as a reinterpretation of nature and a reflection of their own minds.

Highlights include *The Wuyi Mountains* by Wu Guanzhong (*Illustrated right on page 2*, Estimates: HK\$8,000,000 – 12,000,000 / US\$1,025,600 – 1,585,500), *The Vocabulary of Power* by Mao Xuhui (Estimates: HK\$900,000 – 1,200,000 / US\$115,400 – 153,800) and *Untitled* by Kim Whan-Ki (Estimates: HK\$1,000,000 – 1,500,000 / US\$128,200 – 192,300).

Myth And Enchantment



Foreign and Indonesian artists such as the Belgian painter Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur de Merprès, the Spanish master Antonio Blanco, the pioneer generation of Indonesian modern artists that included Affandi and Hendra Gunawan, all painted scenes of Balinese life and culture. These paintings are infused with a rich, vibrant colour palette unique to the region. As much as it held sway over travelers, the magical draw of Bali was very much furthered by the works of artists who came, saw and expressed visually aspects of life in Bali. It is very much the richness of Bali's cultural life – the sophistication of its visual arts, music and drama, and the intricacies of its ritual and ceremonial life – that provided a creative environment and boundless inspiration for artists.

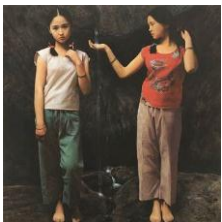
Highlights include *Penari Pendet (The Young Pendet Dancer)* by Affandi (*Illustrated left*, Estimates: HK\$1,500,000 – 2,000,000 / US\$192,300 – 256,400) and *Balinese Rojak Seller* by Lee Man Fong (Estimates: HK\$700,000 – 900,000 / US\$89,700 – 115,400).

Portraits Of Ourselves

The art of Zhang Xiaogang, Liu Ye, Zeng Fanzhi, Yue Minjun, Liu Wei, and Li Shan explore the radical social changes taking place in China today. These artists skillfully capture the hidden emotions psychology that are part of the universally shared human experience. The paintings in this section are portraits of ourselves, reflecting our inner most thoughts and anxieties living in a rapidly changing world. As Chinese contemporary avant-garde artists, they created a contemporary aestheticism through the honest portrayal of the human body and contemporary society, laying bare the insecurities and overwhelming emotions that confront us today. Though these artists represent a specific time and social reference in China, they captivate collectors around the world with universal themes of human desires and realities each one of us experience each day. The paintings in this theme are emotionally powerful because they convey the fundamental truths of human existence. Highlights include *Swimming* by Liu Wei (*Illustrated right*, Estimates: HK\$11,000,000 – 15,000,000 / US\$1,410,300 – 1,923,100), whose paintings describe the naked desire of human beings.

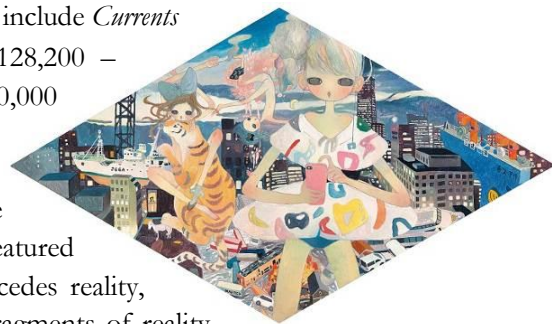


Portraits Of Others



Portraiture and figurative representation held a special place in art with their ability to vividly portray the subjective consciousness of the artist and the *zeitgeist*. The artists in this section feature a broad range of styles and media, each demonstrating fresh ways of approaching the subject and embracing various levels of society. T'ing Yin-Yung, Li Shih Chiao, Ju Ming reveal the beauty of the human body with simplified forms and colors. Chen Danqing and *Yi River* by Wang Yidong (*Illustrated left*, Estimates: HK\$6,000,000 – 8,000,000 / US\$769,200 – 1,025,600) share a similarity in its conception of the human beauty, but depict their subject in a hyper-realistic style. *Peasants Playing Mahjong* by Liu Xiaodong (Estimates: HK\$8,000,000 – 12,000,000 / US\$1,025,600 – 1,538,500) and Yang Shaobin's figurations show their reflection on the rapid social change in China in the 1990s through expressive brush strokes. I Nyoman Masriadi and Yoshitomo Nara's paintings from the 2000s display a sense of humor and sarcasm through their caricature-like figurative art.

The Asian region is enriched with a diversity of culture, its kaleidoscopic nature of which is reflected through the creative imaginations of Aya Takano, Ronald Ventura and Geraldine Javier. Highlights include *Currents* by Aya Takano (Illustrated right, Estimates: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000 / US\$128,200 – 192,300) and *Wonderful Bait* by Ronald Ventura (Estimates: HK\$800,000 – 1,000,000 / US\$102,600 – 128,200). Qiu Xiaofei and Jia Aili from China share the same approach to understand this complicated reality. An example is *1979.6.1* by Jia Aili (Estimates: HK\$3,200,000 – 4,000,000 / US\$410,300 – 512,800). The complexity and diversity has become a global phenomenon. The five artists featured here present art in the age of this simulacrum, where the representation precedes reality, rather than imitating it. They create a montage of our reality by combining fragments of reality, breaking the boundary of the real and unreal. Their paintings represent our psychological status, as we are emotionally and physically overwhelmed by radical changes in every aspect of society.



CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG ASIAN 20TH CENTURY & CONTEMPORARY ART SPRING AUCTIONS 2014

Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art (Evening Sale)

Date: 24 May (Saturday)

Time: 7pm

Asian 20th Century Art (Day Sale)

Date: 25 May (Sunday)

Time: 10pm

Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale)

Date: 25 May (Sunday)

Time: 4pm

Venue: Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

PRESS CONTACT: Simone Woo | Hong Kong | +852 2978 9966 | swoo@christies.com

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Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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, 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

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*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.

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ASIAN 20TH CENTURY & CONTEMPORARY ART SPRING AUCTIONS 2014 FACTSHEET

THE NATURAL AND THE SUBLIME



SANYU (CHANG YU, Chinese, 1901-1966)

Potted Chrysanthemums

oil on masonite

91.5 x 48 cm. (36 x 18 ⁷/₈ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$18,000,000 – 22,000,000

US\$2,307,700 – 2,820,500



XU BEIHONG (Chinese, 1895-1953)

Eagle

oil on canvas

Painted *circa* later 1930s to early 1940s

88 x 88 cm. (34 ⁵/₈ x 34 ⁵/₈ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$16,000,000 – 20,000,000

US\$2,051,300 – 2,564,100



HE DUOLING (Chinese, B. 1948)

Life

oil on canvas

Painted in 1988

100 x 80.5 cm.

Estimate:

HKD12,000,000 – 16,000,000

USD1,538,500 – 2,051,300

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TRANSCENDENCE AND ABSTRACTION



Property from the Estate of Bernard and Geneviève Anthonioz
ZAO WOU-KI (ZHAO WUJI, French/Chinese, 1920-2013)

6.11.72

oil on canvas

Painted in 1972

95 x 105 cm. (37 ³/₈ x 41 ³/₈ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$7,000,000-10,000,000

US\$897,400-1,282,100



CHU TEH-CHUN (ZHU DEQUN, French/Chinese, 1920-2014)

Composition No. 145

oil on canvas

Painted in 1963

81 x 100 cm. (31 ⁷/₈ x 39 ³/₈ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$9,000,000-11,000,000

US\$1,153,800-1,410,300



LIU KUO-SUNG (LIU GUOSONG, Chinese, B. 1932)

Shifting of the Moon

acrylic, ink and colour on paper

Painted in 2007

95.5 x 181 cm. (37 ⁵/₈ x 71 ¹/₄ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$1,500,000-2,500,000

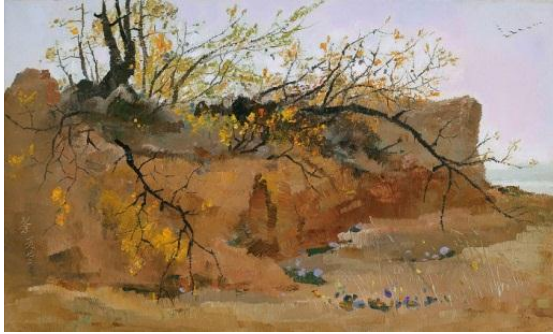
US\$192,300-320,500

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PATTERNS AND FORM



WU GUANZHONG (Chinese, 1919-2010)

Golden Autumn

oil on masonite

Painted in 1972

37.5 x 62 cm (14 ³/₄ x 24 ⁷/₈ in)

Estimate:

HK\$8,000,000-10,000,000

US\$1,025,600-1,282,100



MAO XUHUI (Chinese, B.1993)

The Vocabulary of Power

oil on canvas

Painted in 1994

180 x 130 cm. (70 ⁷/₈ x 130 ¹/₈ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$900,000-1,200,000

US\$115,400-153,800



KIM WHAN-KI (Korean, 1913-1974)

Untitled

oil on canvas

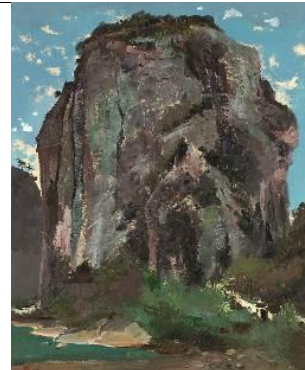
Painted in 1958

38 x 46 cm. (15 x 18 ¹/₈ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000

US\$128,200-192,300



WU GUANZHONG (Chinese, 1919-2010)

The Wuyi Mountains

oil on board

Painted in 1977

62 x 50 cm. (24 ³/₈ x 19 ⁵/₈ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$8,000,000 – 12,000,000

US\$1,025,600 – 1,538,800

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MYTH AND ENCHANTMENT



AFFANDI (Indonesian, 1907–1990)
Penari Pendet (The Young Pendet Dancer)

oil on canvas

Painted in 1963

140 x 80 cm (55 ¹/₈ x 31 ¹/₂ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$1,500,000–2,000,000

US\$192,300–256,400



CHRISTINE AY TJOE (Indonesian, B. 1973)
...This One for You!

acrylic on canvas

Painted in 2007

120 x 120 cm. (47 ¹/₄ x 47 ¹/₄ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$600,000–800,000

US\$76,900–102,600



LEE MAN FONG (Indonesian, 1913–1988)
Balinese Rojak Seller

oil on canvas

Painted in 1955

95.5 x 71 cm. (37 ³/₄ x 28 in.)

Estimate:

HK\$700,000–900,000

US\$89,700–115,400

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PORTRAITS OF OURSELVES



LIU WEI (Chinese, B. 1965)

Swimming

oil on canvas

Painted in 1994

151 x 200 cm. (59 ³/₈ x 78 ³/₄ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$11,000,000-15,000,000

US\$1,410,300-1,923,100

PORTRAITS OF OTHERS



WANG YIDONG (Chinese, B. 1955)

Yi River

oil on canvas

Painted in 1995

120 x 120 cm. (47 ¹/₄ x 47 ¹/₄ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$6,000,000-8,000,000

US\$769,200-1,025,600



LIU XIAODONG (Chinese, B. 1963)

Peasants Playing Mahjong

oil on canvas

Painted in the 1990s

160 x 200 cm. (63 x 78 ³/₄ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$8,000,000-12,000,000

US\$1,025,600-1,538,500

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REALITY THROUGH THE KALEIDOSCOPE



RONALD VENTURA (Filipino, B. 1973)

Wonderful Bait

oil on canvas

Painted in 2013

180 x 244 cm. (70 ⁷/₈ x 96 ¹/₁₆ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$800,000–1,000,000

US\$102,600–128,200



JIA AILI (Chinese, B. 1979)

1979.6.1

oil on canvas

Painted in 2009

209 x 269 cm. (82 ¹/₄ x 105 ⁷/₈ in)

Estimate:

HK\$3,200,000–4,000,000

US\$410,300–512,800



AYA TAKANO (Japanese, B. 1976)

Present

oil on canvas

Painted in 2011

150 x 260 cm. (59 x 102 ³/₈ in.)

Estimate:

HK\$1,000,000–1,500,000

US\$ 128,200–192,300

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