

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | HONG KONG | 22 September 2017 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COURT, STUDIO, ATELIER

An Evening Sale of Chinese Works of Art and Paintings from the Ming Dynasty



CHEN HONGSHOU (1598-1652)

FLOWERS

Handscroll, Ink and Light Colour on Paper

26.8 x 1220 cm. (10 ½ x 480 in.)

HK\$20,000,000 – 30,000,000



A HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND EXTREMELY RARE

WUCAI 'FISH' JAR AND COVER

JIAJING SIX-CHARACTER MARK

IN UNDERGLAZE BLUE AND OF THE PERIOD (1522-1566)

18 1/8 in. (46 cm.)

Estimate on Request

Hong Kong – This autumn Christie's unveils a uniquely curated evening sale to take place on 27 November, entitled **Court, Studio, Atelier - An Evening Sale of Chinese Works of Art and Paintings from the Ming Dynasty**. A culmination of the collaboration between the Chinese Paintings and Chinese Works of Art departments, the sale will present a carefully selected group of the finest masterpieces from the Ming dynasty.

Starting from the 16th Century, a sense of overwhelming freedom permeated the cultural and artistic fabric of China as the imperial court loosened its grip over the art it produced. Unlike the reign of earlier emperors, court artists found a new expression in the production of ceramics, lacquers, jade and metal works.

This sense of freedom also translated into the increasingly influential literati, who devoted considerable effort to the pursuit of painting, calligraphy and poetry, and whose refined and singular taste became the dominant artistic vision of the day. The growing influence of art, which broke traditional boundaries, created huge demand for innovative artisans, and secured the status of these artisans alongside their literati peers in a wave of artistic advancement.

Leading a number of highlights is a group of exceptional Imperial Ming ceramic and lacquer works with unparalleled provenance from the celebrated Le Cong Tang Collection.

Marking the first ever evening sale collaboration between the two departments, the tightly assembled offering leverages the expertise of specialists in their respective fields to present to collectors a comprehensive vantage point from which to embrace the enduring aesthetics and refinement of this culturally lavish era.

Chi Fan Tsang, Senior Vice President, Specialist Head of Department, commented, “Living up to Christie’s pioneering spirit, *Court, Studio, Atelier* will be the first ever evening sale for the category to take place in Asia. With its compelling narrative and vision, the works presented are a reflection of one of the most exciting periods in Chinese art when individualism truly blossomed. Rarely offered on the market, these masterpieces present discerning collectors around the world an opportunity to acquire timeless treasures”.

Ben Kong, Deputy Chairman, International Specialist Head of Chinese of Paintings, added, “Chinese classical paintings of the Ming dynasty reached new heights of advancement as they continued to evolve from the achievements established during the early Song and Yuan dynasties. It was during this period that innovative techniques and new perspectives were experimented with, leading to ever more faithful forms of expression from both the artisans and literati of the period. With the resurgence of demand we have seen for classical paintings, we are thrilled to be offering this carefully curated selection of works by the master artists of their time”.

Sale Highlights



YOU QIU (CA. 1525-1580)
GARDEN WAYFARING IN A SPRINGTIME
Handscroll, ink on paper
32.5 x 275.5 cm. (12 ¼ x 108 ½ in.) Dated 1579

HK\$800,000 – 1,000,000



A SELECTION OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LE CONG TANG COLLECTION



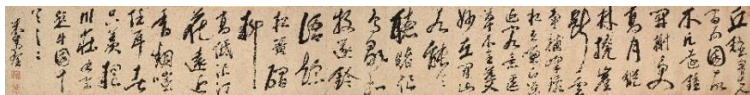
SHEN ZHOU (1427-1509)
FLOWERS OF THE FOUR SEASONS
Handscroll, ink on paper
Painting: 28.6 x 263 cm. (11 ¼ x 103 ½ in.)
Calligraphy: 28.6 x 457 cm. (11 ¼ x 180 in.)

HK\$12,000,000 – 18,000,000



A LARGE FINE DEHUA FIGURE OF GUANYIN
MING DYNASTY, 16TH CENTURY
IMPRESSED HE CHAOZONG MARK
20 ¼ in. (51.5 cm.) high

HK\$10,000,000-15,000,000



MI WANZHONG (1570-1628)
POEMS IN RUNNING-CURSIVE SCRIPT
 Handscroll, ink on paper
 37.5 x 315 cm. (14 ¾ x 124 in.)
HK\$1,500,000 – 2,000,000



A PAIR OF JICHIMU YOKEBACK ARMCHAIRS, GUANMAOYI
 17TH CENTURY
 40 ¼ in. (112cm.) high, 22 7/8 in. (58cm.) wide, 18½ in. (47cm.) deep
HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000

Provenance: The Museum of Classical Chinese Furniture,
 Renaissance, California
 Sold at Christie's New York, Important Chinese Furniture,
 Formerly the Museum of Classical Chinese Furniture Collection, 19
 September 1996, lot 31

Notes to Editors

Auction: Court, Studio, Atelier – An Evening Sale of Chinese Works of Art and Paintings from the Ming Dynasty

Date: 27 November

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. 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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