

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | HONG KONG | 29 May 2020 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIE'S MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS

A MUSEUM-QUALITY FLORAL STILL LIFE BY SANYU

*One of the largest paintings of white chrysanthemums against a red background
Reappearing at auction for the first time in 15 years*



SANYU (CHANG YU, 1895-1966)
Chrysanthèmes blanches dans un pot bleu et blanc
(*White Chrysanthemum in a Blue and White Jardinière*)
oil on masonite
110 x 60 cm. (43 1/4 x 23 5/8 in.)
Painted in 1940s -1950s
HKD 60,000,000 - 80,000,000
(USD 7,800,000 - 10,000,000)

*A Leading Highlight of the Hong Kong Modern and Contemporary Art
Evening Sale on 10th July*

Hong Kong – Following the record-breaking sale of Sanyu's *Five Nudes* in November, Christie's will offer another museum-quality masterpiece by Chinese-French painter Sanyu in the upcoming Modern and Contemporary Art Evening Sale on 10th July.

According to the artist's catalogue raisonné, there are only four known paintings of chrysanthemums against a red background measuring more than one meter in height. Two paintings currently reside in the permanent collection of the National Museum of History in Taipei, and the present work is one of only two pieces currently located in private collections.

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Endowed with a truly illustrious provenance spanning the globe, this work of art was last offered at Christie's in 2005, and has not been seen at auction for 15 years.

Sanyu's love for flowers is well documented, and over the course of his career, he completed over a hundred paintings featuring floral subjects. Chrysanthemums, a nod to his Chinese heritage as a symbol of nobility and strength, are depicted more often than any other flower in Sanyu's oeuvre, across three decades of his artistic output. *White Chrysanthemum in a Blue and White Jardinière* belonged to a series of floral-themed 'jardinières against red ground' paintings that appeared only in the later period of Sanyu's works, which are exceedingly rare in the market.

Evelyn Lin, Deputy Chairman, International Director and Head of Department, Modern and Contemporary Art, Asia Pacific commented, "*White Chrysanthemum in a Blue and White Jardinière is one of the finest examples of Sanyu's floral creations, exemplifying his innate ability to blend Chinese artistic traditions with Western modern aesthetics to create an ingenious work of art. With keen interest surrounding the artist following the new auction record set by Five Nudes, Christie's is proud to be entrusted with the sale of this rare and outstanding late-period Sanyu masterpiece, and look forward to presenting it to the public very soon.*"



SANYU (CHANG YU, 1895-1966)
Chrysanthemums on a Yellow Table
oil on board
101 x 50 cm. (39 3/4 x 19 5/8 in.)

National Museum of History, Taiwan



SANYU (CHANG YU, 1895-1966)
Potted Chrysanthemums and
Butterflies
oil on board
152 x 78.5 cm. (59 7/8 x 30 7/8 in.)

National Museum of History, Taiwan



SANYU (CHANG YU, 1895-1966)
Potted Chrysanthemum in a Blue and
White Jardinière
oil on masonite
120 x 90 cm. (47 1/4 x 35 3/8 in.)
Painted in 1950

Private Collection

NOTES TO EDITORS

[Modern and Contemporary Art Evening Sale](#)

Auction Date: 10th July 2020

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

Exhibition Venue: Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong

Viewing Dates: 4th – 10th July 2020

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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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