



Press Release Hong Kong

For Immediate Release

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China Guardian Hong Kong Spring Auctions 2018

To Offer More than 1,300 Lots Estimated in Excess of HK\$ 440 m / US\$ 56.9 m

Highlighting

Masterpieces by Huang Binhong & Zao Wou-Ki

A Magnificent Blue and White Vase from the Ming Dynasty

Rare Natural Unheated Burmese Pigeon's Blood Rubies and More



Hong Kong, 28 March 2018 China Guardian Hong Kong Spring Auctions 2018 will take place from 31 March to 3 April at JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong and Island Shangri-La Hong Kong. The auction series encompasses seven sales in four categories, namely Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy, Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art as well as Jewellery, Watches and Luxury Goods. **More than 1,300 lots will be offered with a total estimate in excess of HK\$ 440 million / US\$ 56.9 million.**

Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy

Preview: 31 Mar – 2 Apr, Island Shangri-La Hong Kong

Auction: 3 Apr, JW Marriott Hong Kong

This season China Guardian (HK) is delighted to offer **more than 510 works of Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy estimated in excess of HK\$ 125 million / US\$ 16 million.** Leading the sale series is the special sale of 'Important Collections of Fine Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy from Asia'. Featured in the sale are three superb Asian private collections, including Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy from the Dan Han Lou Collection, over 70 works by Li Xiongcai from an important Hong Kong private collection put together by a close friend of the artist and great collector of his works, as well as the Wang Zhenyu Family

Collection which encompasses 80 works by renowned painters such as Zhang Daqian, Huang Junbi and Xu Beihong, including rare works created as personal gifts from the artists.

The various-owner sale of ‘**Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy**’ highlights two landscape works painted by Huang Binhong at 89 years of age, Huang Yongyu’s 1984 work *Cheung Chau* as well as [Waterfall in the Mountains](#) painted by Fu Baoshi in 1949 as a gift to Xu Beihong’s student Zhang Qianying. Classical Chinese Paintings offerings will highlight Tang Yin’s [Spring Mountains](#) from the former collection of Wu Hufan and Li Shan’s [Albums of Animals and Flowers](#) from an important Japanese collection.



Lot 1140

Huang Binhong (1865 – 1955)

[Spring Landscape](#)

Hanging scroll; ink and colour on paper

Painted in 1952, 127 × 47.5 cm

Estimate: HK\$ 5,000,000 – 8,000,000

/ US\$ 641,000 – 1,025,600



Lot 1141

Huang Binhong (1865 – 1955)

[View of North Mountain](#)

Hanging scroll; ink and colour on paper

Painted in 1952, 116 × 48 cm

Estimate: HK\$ 12,000,000 – 22,000,000

/ US\$ 1,538,000 – 2,820,500

Both painted by the artist at the age of 89, the two works by Huang Binhong offered in the ‘Fine Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy’ sale present a rare opportunity for collectors. At the time Huang was suffering from cataract but persevered with creation despite his compromised eyesight, which resulted in the

emergence of a new style that is more spontaneous. Created as a housewarming gift for Wu Ming, a close friend of the artist in his final years, *Spring Landscape* brought to life with spontaneous brushstrokes distant mountains as well as lovely views of nearby villages. To be offered in the same sale, *View of North Mountain* depicts the Qi Xia Ling mountain in Hangzhou where the artist spent his final years. The work was created as a gift for his friend Zheng Yifu, with whom the artist had indepth discussions on the art of painting, which are recorded in extant correspondences between the two. In the inscription Huang shared his analysis of the development of Chinese painting since the Song dynasty as well as his belief in the synergy between painting and calligraphy, which is well illustrated in the present work.

Lot 1144

Huang Yongyu (b. 1924)

[Cheung Chau](#)

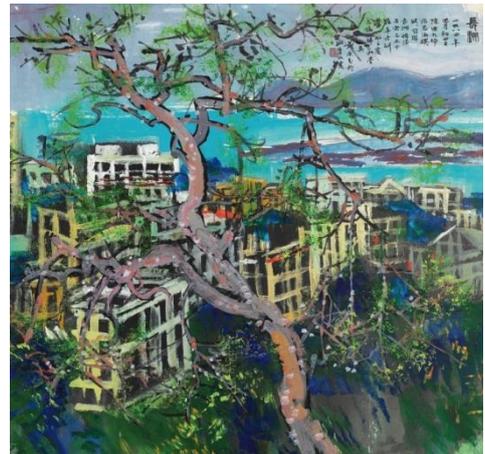
Mounted for framing; ink and colour on paper

68 x 69 cm

Estimate: HK\$ 2,200,000 – 3,200,000

/ US\$ 282,100 – 410,300

A prolific and internationally acclaimed artist from Fenghuang County in the Hunan Province of China, Huang Yongyu is known for his lively and humorous depictions of the everyday. Created in 1984 when the artist revisited Hong Kong for the first time since returning to the Mainland in the 1950s, *Cheung Chau* marks his visit to the eponymous island with his family and friends. The island is depicted in childlike brushstrokes and rich colours which deliver great visual impact. The distinct character of Cheung Chau as a village in Hong Kong is captured in the simple composition through the observant eyes of the artist, who channels his passion for life in the present work.



Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art

Preview: 31 Mar – 1 Apr; Auction 2 Apr

Venue: JW Marriott Hong Kong

China Guardian Hong Kong Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art Spring Auction will take place on 2 April, offering **over 95 important artworks with a total estimate of approximately HK\$ 90 million / US\$ 11.5 million**. The sale will feature two special themes. ‘A Dialogue with Masters’ brings together exquisite works by nine Eastern and Western masters that are exemplary of their individual styles, national spirits and zeitgeist, led by three classic works by Lin Fengmian, Yan Wenliang’s imposing and rare animal motif *Running Horses*, Guan Liang’s *Landscape* and *Opera Figures*, both seen at auction for the first time, Ting Yinyung’s rare and bold double-sided painting *Bodhisattva*, Chinese-American artist Yun Gee’s *Woman and Child Walking in Park (Sorbonne Square)* from the 1930s, Chinese abstract master Zao Wou-Ki’s magnificent work *25.06.86* and, last but not least, Chu Teh-Chun’s striking masterpiece *Composition No. 57*. Western paintings to be offered include *Roches et Cascade* by 19th-Century realist painter Gustave Courbet and *Zinnias Bouquet* by Bernard Buffet.

The second special theme 'Body Language' showcases how artists from different places and times interpret the human figure. This is a dialogue informed by the works of Tsuguharu Foujita, Sanyu, Luo Zhongli, Yoshitomo Nara, Chen Fei and Filipino artist Ronald Ventura. Many of these works are offered at auction for the first time, making this an excellent collecting opportunity.



Lot 24

Zao Wou-Ki (1921 – 2013)

[25.06.86](#)

Oil on canvas

Painted in 1986

195 × 130 cm

Estimate: HK\$ 34,000,000 – 56,000,000 / US\$ 4,359,000 – 7,180,000

25.06.86 was completed in 1986, when Zao's life and international reputation were at their zenith. At this stage, he had achieved a high level of technical mastery and was able to paint whatever he wanted. The consecutive deaths of beloved family members and his second wife had fundamentally changed his outlook in life and his wisdom and magnanimity are culminated in this painting, which is one of only three works created in the three-stream vertical composition that combines Eastern and Western aesthetics. A bright blue and purple colour motif boldly occupies two thirds of the composition and within that vast expanse of colours, nuanced hues of grape-purple, royal blue, indigo and black form layers rising upwards. This work also represents the artist's reinterpretation of the 'five gradations of ink colour' in traditional Chinese painting through the addition of Western oil colours, creating mountains reminiscent of Zhang Daqian's ink-splash works, while the splashes of golden yellow in the middle evoke the warmth of sunshine. The white space in the painting is made up of various faint hues that differ in brightness and texture, creating hazy and dimly discernible scenes in the distance. Zao's artistic development at this point of time might have been inspired by Zhang Daqian, whose renowned splashed colour technique was developed in the 1960s. The present work by Zao forms an intriguing dialogue in terms of composition and colour with Zhang's Chinese-style splashed colour masterpiece *Peach Blossom Spring*, each recounting its creator's utopian imagination as well as wisdom and artistic maturity.

Lot 25

Chu Teh-Chun (1920 – 2014)

[Composition No.57](#)

Oil on canvas

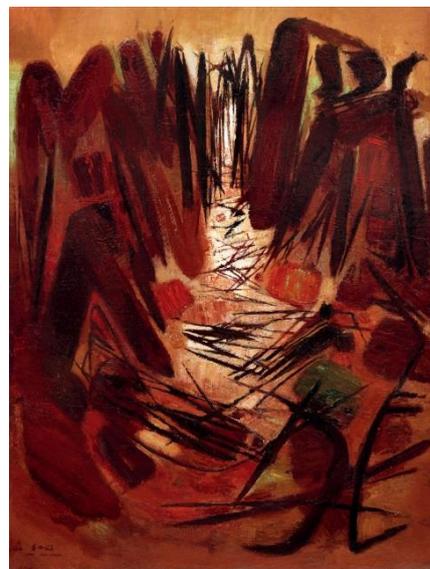
Painted in 1960

127 × 96 cm

Estimate: HK\$ 12,000,000 – 18,000,000

/US\$ 1,538,500 – 2,307,000

In February of 1999, Chu Teh-Chun was honoured with membership



of Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris, making him the first Chinese member of the academy. *Composition No. 57*, the cover lot of the auction, was completed in 1960, a magnificent work of great maturity. In this work, Chu fills the canvas with bold strokes in black and ochre. The rhythmic pulses of Chinese calligraphy outline the contour of mountain peaks, while white strokes in the centre swirl and dance, transcribing the robustness of calligraphy as free-flowing lines, leaping gracefully across the classically symmetrical composition that is extremely rare in his oeuvre. Selected by the artist to feature in the *Solo Exhibition of Chu Teh-Chun* at The Ueno Royal Museum in Tokyo in 2007 and *Chu Teh-Chun 88 Retrospective* at the National Museum of History in Taipei in 2008, the work is considered one of great significance for the artist.



Lot 21

Yun Gee (1906 – 1963)

[Woman and Child Walking in Park \(Sorbonne Square\)](#)

Oil on canvas

Painted in 1936 – 1939

73 × 92 cm

Estimate: HK\$ 6,000,000 – 8,000,000

/ US\$ 769,200 – 1,025,600

Painted in the late 1930's (1936 – 1939) during the artist's second visit to France and in a distinctive oval

composition, *Woman and Child Walking in Park (Sorbonne Square)* is the artist's landmark work that marked the apex of his life when he was widely exhibited and recognised in the Western art world. Captured by the artist in the most lyrical expression, the fashionable woman and little girl in the foreground, the modern automobile in the background and the trees against the bright blue sky represent urban life in beautiful Paris during its peaceful time before World War II, as well as the artist's happiness in the prime of his life.

Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

Preview: 31 Mar – 1 Apr; Auction 2 Apr

Venue: JW Marriott Hong Kong

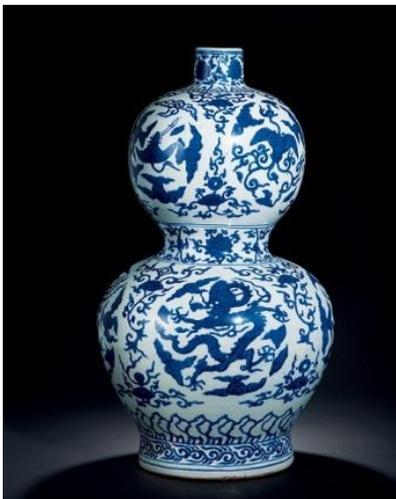
For the upcoming 2018 Spring Auction, the Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art Department will be presenting three curated sales, **more than 510 lots with a total estimate of in excess of HK\$ 87 million / US\$ 11 million will be offered.**

'Ancient Chinese Ceramics from the Tang to the Song Dynasty' will offer more than 60 superb examples of early wares from this high period of ceramic production, highlighting a few important private collections, most of which were built back in the 1980s to 1990s, namely the important Aoyama Nezu Family Collection from Japan, the Liang Family Collection from Canada, and the Yip Collection from Hong Kong.

'Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art' will include a careful selection of 290 lots of ceramics and

works of art, jades, Buddhist art and scholar's objects. Of particular interest are a few selected highlight *longquan* celadon wares and an ancient bronze bell that were once included in the collection of the Tsui Museum of Art from Hong Kong. A collection of Buddhist art sculptures and a blue and white gourd vase will be offered from the important Sun Su An Collection from Japan. The Collection of Cheng Huan, S.C. will feature bronzes, ceramics and Buddhist art. In addition, the themed session of 'Resplendent Craftsmanship—Imperial Works of Art from the Qianlong Reign' will feature a group of splendid craftsmanship from the Qianlong period. The sale will close with the Hongzhen Tang Collection from Hong Kong, offering a group of beautifully carved jades and soapstones.

The third sale, '**Virtue & Purity—A Selection of Fine Chinese Jade Carvings**' will present over 160 pieces of finely carved jades, highlighting several private collections such as the Jingpu Tang Collection from Hong Kong, a Prominent Hong Kong Private Collection, an important Taiwanese collection and a selection of fine Qing jade carvings from a private North American collector.



Lot 317

[A Magnificent Blue and White 'Dragon and Phoenix' Double Gourd Vase, Huluping](#)

Jiajing Six-Character Mark and of the Period (1521 – 1567)

48.5 cm high

Sun Su An Collection—Property from an Important Japanese Private Collection

Estimate: HK\$ 3,300,000 – 4,300,000 / US\$ 423,100 – 551,300

This double gourd vase is painted with rich underglaze cobalt-blue, which is characteristic of the Jiajing period and is particularly striking and even on the present vase. Double gourd vases were very popular in

the Jiajing period. As a Daoist symbol, the gourd was once believed to have hidden an alternative universe populated by Daoist immortals. Since the Jiajing emperor was a devout believer of Daoism and its magical practices, the gourd-form, *hulu*, of the vase would have particularly resonated with the Jiajing emperor. The word *hulu* rhymes with *fulu*, which means fortune and prosperity. The decoration is also abounding with Daoist imagery, with depictions of the Eight Treasures and with the auspicious motifs of wealth, happiness, luck and prosperity. The variety of five-clawed dragons and phoenixes soaring amid clouds are images associated with Imperial status and power representing the emperor and the empress.

Lot 288

[A Large and Finely Cast Bronze Bell, Bo Zhong](#)

Spring and Autumn Period (771 – 476 BC)

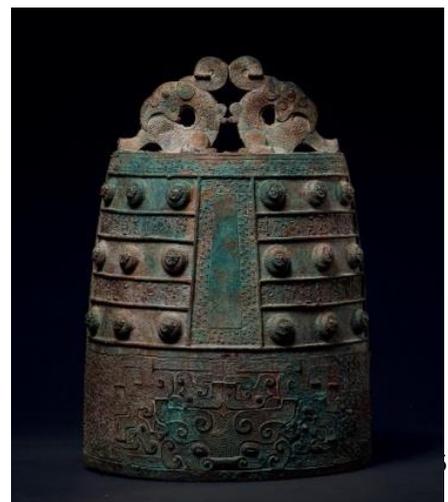
43 cm high

Property from an Important Hong Kong Private Collection

Estimate: HK\$ 1,500,000 – 2,000,000

/ US\$ 192,300 – 256,400

During the Eastern Zhou dynasty, the casting of bronzes in northern



China was centred on the state of Jin, present-day Shanxi province. The present lot was formerly in the collection of T. T. Tsui and the Tsui Museum of Art, Hong Kong, and appears to have a rare and unique cast handle modelled in the form of two confronting birds. Already cast with much finesse with a very much standardised production process, important archaic bronze bells such as the current lot are also equally found in major museum collections around the world.



Lot 192

[An Extremely Rare Carved Qingbai 'Phoenix' Vase and Cover, Meiping](#)

Yuan Dynasty (1271 – 1368)

43 cm high

Property of a Private Hong Kong Collector

Provenance: Acquired by the current owner in Hong Kong, 1990s

Estimate: HK\$ 2,800,000 – 3,200,000 / US\$ 359,000 – 410,300

Dating back to the early Northern Song dynasty, the imperial kilns at Jingdezhen managed to successfully produce very fine white-bodied porcelain covered in delicate glazes of pale aquamarine blue and examples were highly sought after. The white porcelain body was typically fired upright on clay pads or rings which often left orange-red circles or marks on the bases. The current lot retains its original cover, which is extremely rare. The *meiping* shape of *Qingbai* wares was no doubt an inspiration taken from contemporaneous silver wares. The phoenix depicted in the present lot is extremely rare. The motif represents the empress, which in turn suggests that the current lot was probably commissioned for a female member of the royal household. The phoenix is also widely considered as the emperor of all birds, which only appears in times of peace and prosperity. It is believed that the phoenix's appearance augurs the emergence of an able ruler or the arrival of a great man. When the phoenix is depicted together with peony, they form the homonym 'may there be wealth, rank, and good fortune'.

Jewellery, Watches and Luxury Goods

Preview: 31 Mar – 1 Apr; Auction: 2 Apr

Venue: JW Marriott Hong Kong

The Important Jewels and Jadeite Spring Auction this year will offer diamonds of superb quality, coloured gemstones, jadeite, Western antiques as well as modern luxury goods. **More than 180 lots with a total estimate of in excess of HK\$ 141 million / US\$ 18 million will be offered.**

Lot 834

[Very Rare Natural Unheated Kashmiri Sapphire and Diamond Ring, Total Weight of Sapphires 14.41 Carats](#)

Estimate: HK\$ 7,200,000 – 8,600,000 / US\$ 923,100 – 1,102,600

Although Myanmar and Ceylon produce sapphires of high quality, only Kashmiri



Sapphires are considered the ‘King of the Sapphire’. Kashmir is located in the northwestern corner of the Indian subcontinent, in a valley between India and Pakistan. With an average altitude of over 4,000 meters, Kashmir is cold all year round. Mining is difficult in Kashmir due to short annual production time and frequent wars and these gems are therefore extremely rare. Since the mines were depleted over a short period of time, the scarcity of Kashmiri sapphires has made these stones tremendously sought-after by connoisseurs all around the world. Kashmiri sapphires pronouncedly display a distinct blue colour and the signature ‘velvety’ texture caused by the inclusion of extremely fine exsolved rutile silk, which provides subtle light scattering without materially affecting transparency, giving these gems their velvety appearance. As the mine has long been depleted, Kashmiri sapphires are rarely seen except at auction and most gems that emerge were discovered more than 100 years ago.



Lot 828

[Important and Rare 5.67- and 5.61-Carat Natural Unheated Burmese Mogok Pigeon’s Blood Ruby and Diamond Pendant Earrings](#)

Estimate Upon Request

Lot 829

[Impressive and Rare 10.02-Carat Natural Unheated Burmese Mogok Pigeon’s Blood Ruby and Diamond Ring](#)

Estimate Upon Request

Natural rubies are very rare and precious, especially from the fabled Mogok valley in Burma. Among all the varieties of rubies the true pigeon’s blood red is the most precious and treasured. The flaming red hue of rubies evokes vivacity, passion, romance and power. The Burmese believe that it is a great gift from god and there are myths and legends about the gem’s blessings of flourishing romance, longevity and auspiciousness to their descendants. Under sunlight, Mogok-type rubies typically possess a red body colour and red UV-fluorescence. To be offered in this auction is an exemplary suite which possesses the distinctive characteristics of the fabled Mogok rubies.

Lot 831

[144.00-Carat Natural Colombian Emerald and Diamond Necklace / Bracelet, Van Cleef & Arpels](#)

Estimate: HK\$ 7,000,000 – 9,000,000 / US\$ 897,400 – 1,153,800

Founded in 1896, French jeweller Van Cleef & Arpels became widely recognised in Paris in the 1930s for its impeccable workmanship. Its creativity and understated luxury quickly garnered a following among those of sophisticated taste. Featuring a 144.00-carat natural Colombian emerald on an elegant diamond necklace, this piece promises to be a stunner.



Estimates do not include buyer’s premium | Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer’s premium
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China Guardian Hong Kong 2018 Spring Auctions

Preview

3/F JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong		
Asian 20 th Century and Contemporary Art	31 March	10am – 9pm
Important Jewels and Jadeite*	1 April	10am – 6pm
Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art		
5/F Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong		
Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy	31 March	10am – 9pm
	1– 2 April	10am – 6pm

* Preview will be closed prior to the auction on 2 April

Auction: 3/F JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong

2 April (Monday)		
Room A	Asian 20 th Century and Contemporary Art	11am
	Important Jewels and Jadeite	4pm
Room B	Ancient Chinese Ceramics from the Tang to the Song Dynasty	11am
	Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art	12nn
	Virtue & Purity – A Selection of Fine Chinese Jade Carvings	4pm
3 April (Tuesday)		
Room B	Important Collections of Fine Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy from Asia	10am
	Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy	2pm

About China Guardian (HK)

Founded in May 2011, China Guardian (HK) is now firmly established in Hong Kong since its inaugural auctions held in the autumn of 2012 and is wholly owned by China Guardian Auctions. China Guardian (HK) is led by an elite international team of diligent professionals with strong sense of integrity and passion to provide the best possible service for connoisseurs around the globe. Our auction categories include Chinese Painting and Calligraphy, Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Classical Chinese Furniture, and Jewelry, Watches & Luxury Good



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