



China Guardian Hong Kong 2017 Spring Auctions

Press Release

[For Immediate Release]

China Guardian Hong Kong 2017 Spring Auctions 27-30 May 2017 | JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong

29th - 30th , May 2017 (Auction)
27th - 28th , May 2017 (Preview)
3/F Ballroom & 5/F Flint,
JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong,
Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong

Chinese Painting and Calligraphy from the Four Seas
Classical Chinese Painting and Calligraphy
Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art
Classic Furniture from the Hung Collection
Classic Furniture of the Ming and the Qing Dynasties
Virtue & Purity: A Selection of Fine Chinese Jade Carvings
Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art
Ancient Chinese Ceramics from the Tang to the Song Dynasty

HONG KONG, 15th May 2017– Kicking off the excitement of the China Guardian Year, the China Guardian Hong Kong 2017 spring auctions will be held at 3/F ballroom and 5/F flint in JW Marriott Hotel from 27 May(Sat) to 30 May(Tue).

The upcoming auctions cover four major categories including ancient and modern Chinese painting and calligraphy, Asian 20th century and contemporary art, Chinese ceramics and

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works of art, and classic furniture of the Ming and the Qing dynasties. Pre-auction exhibition starts from 27 May(Sat) to 28 May(Sun) (29 May(Mon) for Chinese ceramics and works of art, and Ming and Qing furniture), and the auctions will begin on 29 May(Mon) to 30 May(Tue).

Chinese Painting and Calligraphy from the Four Seas

China Guardian (HK) has sourced over 400 paintings and calligraphic masterpieces from the modern period through worldwide channels. The most important of them are the works by Zhang Daqian(張大千), especially *White Lotus*, which appeared as the cover of a 1974 solo exhibition catalogue by a gallery in Chicago; *Mountain in Spring*, in splashed ink, which appeared as the cover of a 1982 exhibition catalogue by Tsi Ku Chai; and *Beautiful Lady*, in dedicated brushstroke, which was on display at a Frank Caro Gallery exhibition in 1984.

Another attraction of the spring auctions will certainly be Qi Baishi's(齊白石) insect sketches. Made available for the very first time by a veteran collector, the sketches from life used to be retained by the artist himself and were kept close at hand as painting references. It is a rare opportunity that such unadorned works, to the extent of being unmounted, are offered on the market without any reserve prices.

Qi Baishi hit the headlines back in 1997 when his tiny painting *Ink Fly*, measuring no more than a couple of inches across, was sold to the famous Hong Kong collector Robert Chang

for RMB198,000 at the China Guardian 1997 Spring Auctions, broken a new record per square foot for Qi Baishi. After all these years, China Guardian(HK) is honoured to be consigned the insect sketches for sale at auctions. Considering their value in both artistically and historically, the lots will surely mark as one of the climaxes in the upcoming auctions.

Other rare items from the upcoming auctions are landscapes painted from life by Lui Shou-kwan(呂壽琨) in his early years. Measuring over 609.6 cm in length, the longest of the artist's painting of landscapes in ink, the painting *Landscape after Wang Hui* was produced for teaching an extramural course for The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The circumstances surrounding its production and the artist's profound insights on Chinese art history are detailed in the long colophon, showing Lui's passion in education.

To offer art lovers an art historical perspective or glimpses into the development of 20th century arts, certain themes have been specially introduced.

Classical Chinese Painting and Calligraphy

As in previous years, this season's "Classical Chinese Painting and Calligraphy" is specifically catered for art lovers. Among the rare items are Shen Zhou's(沈周) *Anlao Pavilion*, which was a property of the renowned collector Zhang Boju, and Zhang Ruitu's(張瑞圖) sophisticated *Five-character Poem in Running Script*, previously in the possession of Robert Hatfield Ellsworth, another seasoned collector.

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Art enthusiasts may recall that China Guardian (HK) presented a pocket-sized scroll previously in the collection of Chang Hsueh-liang, also revered as the Young Marshal, at its 2013 autumn auctions. Carrying exchanges between an emperor and his subjects, the scroll attracted enthusiastic bidders. This year, many would be thrilled to learn that China Guardian (HK) has solicited more pocket-sized treasures, in the form of scrolls or albums, of the same provenance for the upcoming spring auctions.

These include Qian Weicheng's(錢維城) *Flowers of Four Seasons*, a number of pocket-sized landscapes by Zhang Zongcang(張宗蒼), Dong Bangda(董邦達) and Hong Wu(弘晷), and a pair of delicately carved Shoushan stone seals personally used by Chang Hsueh-liang(張學良). It is of interest to note that each flower painting in the Qian Weicheng album is juxtaposed with a self-composed poem inscribed by Emperor Qianlong. Dainty and endearing, these masterpieces were usually kept in curio boxes for the emperor's appreciation anytime and anywhere during his travels. Although small in size, meticulousness in execution is not at all compromised.

Another great collection is the painting of Vairocana, which closely resembles another painting housed in the National Palace Museum, Taipei, and is impressed with five of Emperor Qianlong's seals. The painting *Goose* signed by Lu Zonggui(魯宗貴). is an item that collectors cannot miss.

Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art

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The focus of China Guardian (HK)'s "Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art" this spring is placed on masterpieces produced by pioneering modernists who bridged the old and the new in post-war Taiwan. Also included are a selection of large-sized masterpieces by emerging Japanese artists and small-sized ones by contemporary Western masters so as to open up new possibilities in collecting.

The category of contemporary Asian art is underpinned by Zhang Xiaogang's(張曉剛) *Bloodline: Big Family Series*, a large-sized portrait from the artist's "bloodlines series" that documents and epitomizes in the form of easel painting the outlook and collective memories of a whole generation of Chinese families in history. Also not to be overlooked are well established artists such as Pang Jun(龐均), Yan Ping (閔平), Gong Lilong(宮立龍)and Wang Daishan(王岱山), and emerging but well-trained artists such as Li Shurui (李姝睿)and Wu Wei (伍偉). As for 20th century art, the limelight falls on George Chann's(陳蔭熙) portraits from the 1980s. Donated by the artist to the Crystal Cathedral, USA, in the 1990s, the works are relatively little known to Asian collectors.

Taiwan's post-war artists are an important chapter in the development of modernism in Chinese painting.

Contemporary Japanese artists like Aya Takano(高野綾) and Masaru Shichinohe(七戸優). Aya Takano's hallmark charm, richness and imagination can be fully seen from *A Gathering of Ancient God of Food, Animals from Long ago, and the Young Who have been Forced to Migrate to*

this Country (Not for Human Eyes) on the other hand, Masaru Shichinohe's *The Praying Girl* exemplifies the girl, or the artist's favourite subject, set among fire hydrants, watches and clocks in a defined space so that added a touch of mystery to the otherwise rational portrayal to lead the viewers into a realm of imaginary space and time.

As a follow-up to the sensation of last year's autumn auctions, China Guardian (HK) is presenting more masterpieces on paper this season. These include Sanyu's(常玉) *Dancing Nude* shares the same provenance with another fine drawing housed in the National Museum of History in Taipei, Yuichi Inoue's(井上有一) *Hana (Flower)* in Unagami Masaomi's collection, Kazuo Shiraga's(白髪一雄) spiritual *Untitled*, Cai Guoqiang's(蔡國強) drawing for an important exhibition in Yokohama, Japan, in 1990, and Damien Hirst's exquisite *Uplift*, all of which boast excellent provenance.

Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

Three thematic auctions of Chinese ceramics and works of art will be held in association with the China Guardian (HK) 2017 Spring Auctions with over 700 items. In addition to "Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art", which has become a regular event, and "Ancient Chinese Ceramics from the Tang to the Song Dynasty", which were twice held in 2016, a new auction titled "Virtue & Purity - A Selection of Fine Chinese Jade Carvings" will be held.

Some categories in the upcoming spring auctions merits attention. They include monochrome ceramics of the Qing dynasty, later Chinese bronzes, Gandhara art, scholar's objects, and jades from various periods in Hong Kong and Taiwanese private collections. Grouped under "Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art" are over 360 items that range from ancient ceramics, Ming and Qing porcelains through Buddhist art and bronzes to scholar's objects. The highlights include monochrome ceramics from a European private collection that features, among others, three "chrysanthemum" dishes from the Yongzheng period, fine objects under "Important Private Collection of Later Chinese Bronzes" and "The Scholar's Objects from a Taiwanese Private Collection" respectively, and Gandhara art under "The Art of Silk Road".

Virtue & Purity - A Selection of Fine Chinese Jade Carvings

With a dedicated auction titled "Virtue & Purity - A Selection of Fine Chinese Jade Carvings" put together for the first time this season, the jades on offer, numbering over 300 from various archaeological cultures. Whatever the period you have in mind, you will be able to find a fine piece from the lots that are arranged systematically and marked with special themes such as "Property from a Distinguished Hong Kong Collector" and "Property from a Taiwanese Private Collection" to make selection easier. Particularly noteworthy are the exquisite white jade carving of an elephant and boys and that of a recumbent deer from the Qianlong reign.

Ancient Chinese Ceramics from the Tang to the Song Dynasty

The thematic auction “Ancient Chinese Ceramics from the Tang to the Song Dynasty” where provenance, condition and academic value are emphasized will be held for the third time with about 40 items. Among the auction items are porcelains with white glaze, Cizhou, Yaozhou and Gongxian wares and more.

Classic Furniture of the Ming and the Qing Dynasties

To cater to furniture lovers, China Guardian (HK) is presenting two thematic auctions, named as “Classic Furniture of the Ming and the Qing Dynasties” and the special “Classic Furniture from the Hung Collection”. The former groups together properties in private collections in Singapore, Hong Kong and overseas to offer furniture such as chairs, stools, tables and cabinets, and scholar’s objects such as chests, boxes and stands. Made from the finest woods, they display a wide range of techniques including relief carving, openwork, jewel inlays and so on.

Classic Furniture from the Hung Collection

The lots offered under “Classic Furniture from the Hung Collection” have all been published in the two-volume book *Chinese Furniture: One Hundred Examples from the Mimi and Raymond Hung Collection*. The collection was built and categorised by the collectors’ American friend Robert Hatfield Ellsworth, who remarks in his preface in volume two of the above book that the Hung Collection is “today the largest and finest collection of early Chinese furniture in private hands”.

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Comprehensive in scope and periods, China Guardian (HK) 2017 Spring Auctions have gathered the best and the finest to suit every taste and passion. While continuing to focus on traditional categories, we have also ventured into new ones to present art lovers worldwide with the choicest properties. The spring auctions is an event you cannot miss.

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About China Guardian (HK) Auctions Co., Ltd

Founded in May 2011, China Guardian (HK) Auctions is into its ninth season this year since its first Hong Kong auctions held in the autumn of 2012. China Guardian (HK) boasts an elite international team of diligent professionals who are driven by a strong sense of integrity and a passion for applying their expert knowledge in order to render the best possible service to their clients. Guided by our traditional values of integrity, transparency and fairness, and operating in strict accordance with international standards, China Guardian (HK) Auctions pledges to preserve traditional Chinese culture and is fully committed to serving art collectors around the world.

Wholly owned by China Guardian Auctions that specializes in Chinese painting and calligraphy, China Guardian (HK) Auctions is arguably one of the most prestigious auction house in Hong Kong. Our auction areas include Chinese painting and calligraphy, Chinese ceramics and works of art, 20th century and contemporary Asian art, watches, jewellery, jadeite and classic furniture.

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