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PRESS RELEASE

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33 AUCTION MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART SALE 13th NOVEMBER 2011



Zhu Dequn, *Germinations* (2006) (Estimate: S\$ 280,000 - 350,000)

Singapore, November 2011. 33 Auction will hold its Autumn Modern and Contemporary Asian Art sale on November 13 at the Grand Hyatt Singapore. This season's sale will offer 157 exceptional works by prominent artists from China, Indonesia, the Philippines and around the region with a total estimate of about S\$3 million. Our team of specialists have carefully assembled an impressive array of high quality works from acclaimed artists including from Indonesia, Srihadi Sudarsono, S. Sudjojono, Affandi and Lee Man Fong; Ronald Ventura and Annie Cabigting from the Philippines; and Zhu Dequn, Lin Fengmian, Li Chen and Ju Ming from China and Taiwan.

In addition, as an auction house with a vision of uncovering great talents, we have also introduced works by several emerging artists who are making their debut in the auction market. With this selection, discerning collectors, both new and established, have the opportunity to acquire high caliber works in the dramatic setting of an auction. The additional good news for prospective buyers is that 33 Auction has decided to continue offering lots with the lowest buyer's premium in Singapore, just 10% - 12%.

Below are some of the highlights of the sale by category:

Modern and Contemporary Chinese

Leading the Chinese Modern and Contemporary field is a stunning lot from artist **Zhu Dequn**. A recurring feature within Zhu's work is the inspiration he draws from the natural world and the current lot perfectly reflects this affinity for nature. Although Zhu does not immediately convey the meanings of his works to his viewers, it is easy to imagine that *Germination* (Lot 114), (Pictured on title page, **Estimate: S\$280,000 - \$350,000**) represents the first signs of life springing forth as the canvas itself seems to pulsate with movement and energy, a testament to the true genius of the artist who succeeds in infusing such incredible vitality into his work with every brushstroke.

Lin Fengmian is an example of an outstanding artist who managed to merge two dissimilar styles to create his own distinctive technique. Lin Fengmian, master to the late Wu Guangzhong, is widely regarded as being the founding father of a style of Chinese painting that emerged in the 1930's. Lin rethought and reconstructed Chinese aesthetics. The resultant style although distinctly Chinese, made extensive use of Western visual language. 33 Auction is fortunate enough to be offering two outstanding lots by Lin Fengmian for this sale, including *Lotus Pond* (Lot 142), pictured on the right (**Estimate: S\$50,000 - \$70,000**).



Taiwanese sculptor **Ju Ming** was born in 1938 and, at 73, he has earned the right to be considered Taiwan's most pre-eminent sculptor and one of the finest sculptors in Asia. His inimitable style is recognized internationally, particularly his powerful elemental "Tai Chi" series. The lot shown on the left (**Estimate: S\$115,000 - \$155,000**), (Lot 20) is taken from this series and is one of four sculptures from the artist to feature in this sale.

Joining Ju Ming in this auction is fellow countryman, **Li Chen**. Typical of Li Chen's sculptures, *Fairyland*, (Lot 123) (Pictured Right, **Estimate S\$110,000 - \$140,000**) features a rather corpulent, though eminently benign, figure that possesses an ethereal gracefulness which belies its unconventional proportions. The head of the figure is strongly reminiscent of a full moon, with all of the mythical and spiritual connotations therein implied. It is as if Li Chen is trying to create a tangible link between the worldly and the divine, as if the full moon has deigned to pay the earth a personal visit. This seamless blending of the heavenly and the earthly is what makes Li Chen's sculptural works so unique and appealing to collectors.



Modern Indonesian



Widely admired for his vividly coloured paintings, Indonesian painter **Srihadi Sudarsono** has captivated many with his fluid portrayals of beautiful dancers for over half a century. As evident in the above painting, *Spirit of Love and Devotion* (Lot 46), (Pictured left, **Estimate S\$70,000 - \$90,000**), Srihadi is an incredibly skilled colourist. His ability to make use of a limited colour palette to transform the dancers into figures of such dynamic energy is truly remarkable.

Also included in the sale is a beautiful work from “The father of Indonesian Modernism”, **S. Sudjojono**. *Orchid in the Basket* (Lot 103), (Pictured right, **Estimate: S\$60,000 - \$80,000**) is a great example of Sudjojono’s unmistakable style and unique take on colour and composition.



Joining Srihadi and in the sale are a number of other modern Indonesian greats. **Affandi** is well represented with a total of five lots, including two self-portraits.



Another of the Indonesian great masters, **Lee Man Fong**, is represented by four lots, with the stand-out piece being *Geese*, (Lot 104) (**Pictured left, Estimate: S\$60,000 - \$80,000**). Although Man Fong painted a plethora of animals during his career (doves, chickens and goldfish being his primary focus) the current depiction of geese may be considered to be something of a rarity within his oeuvre. Man Fong brings to bear all of his considerable skills in his depiction of natural subjects. In this case the artist masterfully portrays his geese from multiple angles in order to fully appreciate the animals’ graceful aesthetic qualities, while at the same time eloquently retaining the vitality so necessary when depicting animate subjects.



Another seldom-seen addition to the sale is an unusual piece from **Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur De Merpres**. *La Ferme Rose Animée*, (Lot 19) (Pictured Left, Estimate: **S\$20,000 - \$30,000**) is a rare early work from Le Mayeur's pre-Bali period. Though the work was likely completed when the artist was still in his mid-twenties, it is executed in a post-expressionist style which inclines towards the distinctive, impressionist technique which Mayeur would later become known for. This somewhat unorthodox technique of utilising short firm brushstrokes to apply thick layers of paint results in a wonderfully sketchy view of an idyllic country scene which clearly resonated strongly with the artist.

Singaporean Artists

Singaporean artists, both modern and contemporary, are well represented within this sale. A wonderful landscape painting done in 1973 by **Cheong Soo Pieng**, (Lot 64), (Pictured Right, Estimate **S\$8,000 - \$12,000**) is the highlight of the Singaporean works. Other notable offerings include three stunning lots from **Chen Wen Hsi** and one by **Tan Oe Pang**. The younger generation of Singaporean artists are also ably represented by the likes of **Jimmy Ong**, **Steve Chua** and the art collective **Phunk Studio**.

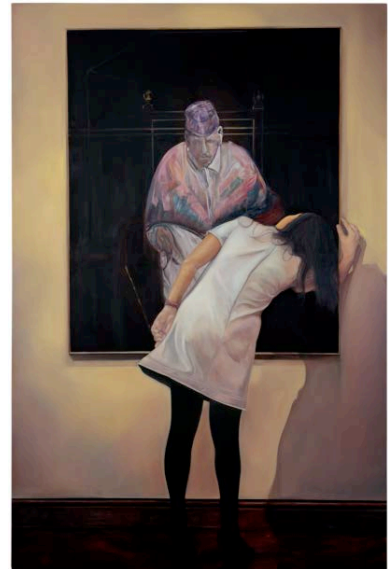


Contemporary South East Asian



One of the biggest names in Southeast Asian Contemporary Art, Ronald Ventura is arguably the leading contemporary artist to have emerged from the Philippines and the region and unsurprisingly his work is sought after by collectors worldwide. One of two lots from the artist in this sale, *Urban Summer*, (Lot 88) (Pictured Left, Estimate: **S\$32,000 - \$38,000**) is a seldom-seen diptych from the artist. With its powerful, bold colours and corporate references, this lot is sure to appeal to a broad range of collectors and art-lovers.

Annie Cabigting, one of the most sought female artists in the Philippines, has explored various conceptual concerns as a painter. Among these is her ongoing interest in exploring the physical act of looking at paintings: seeing and examining how people stand and conduct themselves in the face of art. In *Being With Bacon's Pope*, (Lot 90) (Pictured Right, **Estimate S\$10,000 – \$15,000**) The girl in the painting stands as a metaphorical examination of past artistic traditions: remaining undeterred by the distance and weight of history while viewing the painting sideways, as if attempting to see the work from literally a new angle. In appropriating Bacon's celebrated portraits—which in themselves were a reaction to the art of the past—Cabigting's work challenges the viewer to confront the relationships between viewer and the subject, history and the present.



* Estimates do not include buyer's premium

Images and catalogue available upon request

NOTES TO EDITORS

33 AUCTION MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART SALE

AUCTION

VENUE: GRAND HYATT SINGAPORE, THE GALLERY, MEZZANINE LEVEL

SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2011

LUNCH RECEPTION: STARTING AT 12:30 PM

AUCTION: STARTING AT 2 PM

PREVIEW

VENUE: MOCA LOEWEN, BLK 27A LOEWEN ROAD, SINGAPORE 248839

11TH & 12TH NOVEMBER, 11AM – 8PM



Zhu Wei, *China-China No 2*, Estimate S\$100,000 – 150,000, (Lot 124)

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