



33 Auction Pte Ltd
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

33 AUCTION MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART SALE 6th May 2012



Rearngsak Boonyavanishkul, *Rising*, lot 74
(Estimate S\$ 16,000-\$22,000)

Singapore, May 2012. 33 Auction will hold its Spring Modern and Contemporary Asian Art sale on 6th May at the Grand Hyatt Singapore. This season's auction will offer almost two hundred exceptional works by prominent artists from China, Indonesia, the Philippines and around the region. Our team of specialists have carefully assembled an impressive array of high quality works from acclaimed artists including from Indonesia **Srihadi Sudarsono, Affandi** and **Lee Man Fong**; **Ronald Ventura** and **Arturo Sanchez** from the Philippines; and **Chu Teh-Chun, Luo Zhongli, Zhu Wei** and **Ju Ming** from China and Taiwan.

This selection offers discerning collectors, both new and established, the opportunity to acquire high caliber works in the dramatic setting of an auction. Additional good news for prospective buyers is that 33 Auction continues to offer the lowest buyers commission among auction houses in Singapore, with rates at just 15% - 12%.



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A fantastic collection of works from Chinese artists has been put together for this sale, including pieces from **Luo Zhongli, Zeng Chuanxing, Zhou Chunya, Wu Rigen** and many more. One of the highlights of the Chinese works is a painting from renowned artist **Mao Xuhui** (pictured right, lot 97). In the present work, a huge red armchair features centre stage. Using his own perspective, the artist gives off the illusion of superiority and a dominating presence of the chair. Yet, the artist has eliminated previous habits of expression using heavy colour and dense textures. His brushwork and knife work is reflecting the “as is” state of the objective world. However, as for the image and style in painting, he has retained the same perspective as in the past. He now uses softer, subtler colours and finer



Taiwanese sculptor **Ju Ming** was born in 1938 and, at 74, 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 present lot (pictured left, lot 28) is taken from this series and is one of four works from the artist to feature in this sale.

Another stand-out amongst the sculptures is a work by **Zhu Wei**. Undoubtedly Zhu's best-known sculptural series, *China China* (pictured right, lot 158), features the same corpulent figures first introduced in the artist's paintings. Begun in 1998, the series depicts faceless, rotund individuals clad in Mao suits and lined up as if in military formation. The sculptures sport a dusty-looking, rough exterior, as if they were recently unearthed archaeological finds. This sense of antiquity is compounded by the monumental figures' impressive dimensions and commanding statures which bring to mind the Qin Dynasty terracotta warriors uncovered in Xian, representing millennia of proud Chinese history. Although the Mao suit and strangely anonymous faces may reflect a more turbulent time of revolution and subsequent collectivism in China, the fact that the figures are leaning forward is particularly relevant as it can be seen to represent a modern day China striving ever forwards towards a prosperous future.



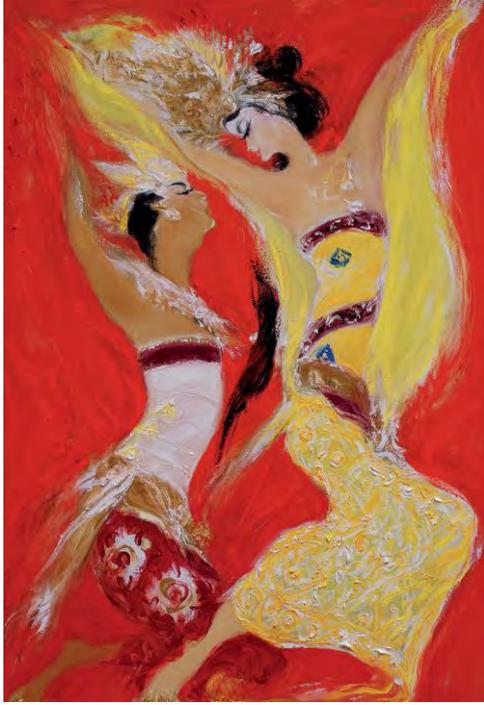


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One of the highlights of the Indonesian section is a collection of three paintings from **Srihadi Sudarsono**. Widely admired for his vividly coloured paintings, Indonesian painter **Srihadi Sudarsono** has captivated many with his fluid portrayals of beautiful dancers for over half a century. As evident in the above painting, *Oleg Tambulilingan* (pictured left, lot 51), 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. As a master colourist, Srihadi has the innate ability to utilise colours which best represent, and indeed enhance, the emotion which the artist is attempting to represent. The present lot, *Oleg Tambulilingan*, demonstrates this point eloquently. The bold blocks of solid colour lend a power and dynamism to the dancers, who seem to jump off the canvas against which they find themselves silhouetted. Though clever, fluid, swirling brushwork helps to encourage a sense of movement, the performers themselves seem to possess an incredible energy of their own. Such is the ability of the artist, that he can represent intense vitality and movement, largely through colour alone.

As always, this sale features a very strong selection of works from Filipino artists, both emerging and established. One artist who certainly belongs in the later group is **Ronald Ventura**. As a painting with which Ronald Ventura broke through to his multi-layered, signature style, *Commodity* (pictured right, lot 110) is a key Ventura piece, holding a singular, art-historically significant position in the artist's growing body of important work. A finely rendered, monochromatic female nude dominates the pictorial frame and anchors it. In the dark sepia tones of the image, her body appears like a soul, a lone locus of illumination. At once serious and tongue-in-cheek, finely painted and texturally rough, and paradoxically fatigued and calm, Ventura's *Commodity* reveals itself after long, careful attention to be a powerful, tightly composed exploration of how identity is at once created and concealed—how the self is simultaneously presented and withdrawn, and how representing the body faithfully and completely is both a hopeless impossibility as much as it is the only method there is. Other contemporary Filipino artists joining Ventura in the sale include **Arturo Sanchez, Kadin Tiu, Crist Espiritu, Ronald Caringal** and **Renato Barja Jr.**





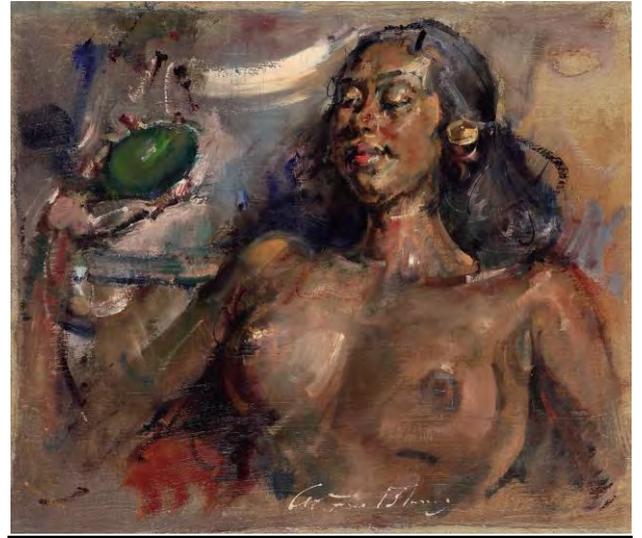
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One very special addition to this sale is a wonderful work by renowned artist **Antonio Blanco** (pictured right, lot 147). Blanco's style has been described as romantic expressionism and, as evidenced by the present lot, this style clearly lends itself to stunningly sympathetic portrayals of the female form. The subtlety and sensitivity with which Blanco depicts his subject leaves the observer in no doubt of not only the immense skill of the artist, but also the deep respect, even devotion, that the artist harbours for the female of the species.



Singaporean artists, both modern and contemporary, are well represented within this sale. A collection of wonderful paintings by Chen Wen Hsi (Pictured left and below, lots 68 & 67) are some of the highlights of the Singaporean works. Other notable offerings include lots from some of Singapore's pioneer artists including Cheong Soo Pieng and Tan Oe Pang. The younger generation of Singaporean artists are also ably represented by the likes of Jimmy Ong and Ruben Pang.





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* Estimates do not include buyer's premium

Images and catalogue available upon request

NOTES TO EDITORS

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AUCTION

VENUE: GRAND HYATT SINGAPORE, THE GALLERY, MEZZANINE LEVEL

SUNDAY 6TH MAY 2012

LUNCH RECEPTION: STARTING AT 12:30 PM

AUCTION: STARTING AT 2 PM

PREVIEW

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

4TH & 5TH MAY, 11AM – 8PM

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