



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**RARE WORKS BY SINGAPOREAN ARTISTS *TAY BAK KOI* AND *CHOO KENG KWANG* SETS WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTISTS IN AUCTION**



**RECORD PRICE ALSO ACHIEVED FOR INDONESIAN MAESTRO *BASOEKI ABDULLAH*, FILIPINO ARTIST *TORO* AND MALAYSIAN SCULPTOR *CH'NG HUCK THENG***

**ACHIEVED SALES AMOUNT SGD 3.9 MILLION**

Singapore, 1 September 2013 – Two rare paintings of Singaporean artists Tay Bak Koi and Choo Keng Kwang going under hammer at 33 Auction Modern and Contemporary Asian Art Evening Sale on 1 September 2013 have set a new record price for the artists works sold in an auction.

Tay Bak Koi's '*Fisherman*' (pictured top left) was sold for SGD 66,080 (including premium) while Choo Keng Kwang's '*Pasar Burung (Bird Market)*' (pictured top right) was sold for SGD 80,240 (including premium), 25% more than its highest estimate – proving a record high for both second-generation Singapore artists.

Tay Bak Koi's '*Fisherman*' is the largest painting by the artist to have appeared in the auction market at 121cm x 194cm and also one of the rarest, having been in a private collection since it was painted circa late 1960s.

Choo Keng Kwang's '*Pasar Burung (Bird Market)*' portraying a local market selling a variety of exotic birds is a rare subject for the artist who is usually known for his oil works of doves.

The auction also broke several other artists' record, including for Indonesian Maestro *Basoeki Abdullah* when one of his largest work '*Mediterranean Customs*' depicting folk dancers dancing away was sold for SGD 384,600 (including premium). Filipino artist Toro also broke his record when his action painting *Moods 333* was sold for SGD 212,400 (including premium). *Apprentice* by Malaysian sculptor Ch'ng Huck Theng sets a new record for the artist when it was sold for SGD 25,960.

*"We are very pleased with the result achieved this evening in which we broke several artist's price record achieved in auction, in particular for second generations Singapore artists. We see collectors' great appetite in pursuing good quality works and paying top dollars for them. We look forward to bringing more exciting offering for our forthcoming 5th anniversary auction to be held in mid January next year."* **David Fu, Specialist, 33 Auction**

Named as one of "The Top Auction Houses in Asia"<sup>1</sup>, 33 Auction's September Evening Sale is one of its most successful. The auction was well received with about 250 to 300 attendees and a total sale of SGD 3.9 million with 58 out of 83 lots sold (70% sold by lot).

### **Highlights:**

#### **1. NEW WORLD RECORDS FOR SINGAPOREAN ARTISTS**

Lot 73 - Tay Bak Koi (Singaporean) - Fisherman - SGD 56,000 (hammer price) / SGD 66,080 (including premium)

Lot 76 - Choo Keng Kwang (Singaporean) - Bird Market - SGD 68,000 (hammer price) / SGD 80,240 (including premium)

Previously recorded highest auction price for Tay Bak Koi was for his 'Street Scene' which was sold for HKD 250,000 / SGD 41,152 (including premium) (Hammer price: HKD 200,000 / SGD 32,921) at Sotheby's Hong Kong in June 2013 while Choo Keng Kwang's 'Pigeons' was hammered at SGD 26,000 (hammer price) / SGD 30,680 (including premium) in 33 Auction's May evening sale.

#### **2. RECORD ALSO BROKEN FOR INDONESIAN MAESTRO *BASOEKI ABDULLAH* AND FILIPINO ARTIST *TORO* AND MALAYSIAN SCULPTOR *CH'NG HUCK THENG***

Lot 13 - Basoeki Abdullah (Indonesian) - Mediterranean Customs - hammer price SGD 330,000 / SGD 384,600 (including premium)

Lot 19 - Toro (Filipino) - Moods 333 - hammer price SGD 180,000 / SGD 212,400 (including premium)

Lot 35 - Ch'ng Huck Theng (Malaysian) - Apprentice - hammer price SGD 22,000 / SGD 25,960 (including premium)

#### **3. TOP 5 LOTS IN THE SALE (ordered from the highest price)**

1. Lot 28 - Affandi (Indonesian)- European Skiing - sold for SGD 407,000 (including premium) / hammer price: SGD 350,000

2. Lot 13 - Basoeki Abdullah (Indonesian)- Mediterranean Customs - sold for SGD 384,600 (including premium) / hammer price: SGD 330,000

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<sup>1</sup> by Blouin Art Info in a special coverage on 14 August. (<http://sea.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/944542/the-top-auction-houses-in-asia>)

3. Lot 26 - Affandi (Indonesian)- Ipanema Beach, Brazil - sold for SGD 212,400 (including premium) / hammer price: SGD 180,000

4. Lot 19 - Toro (Filipino)- Moods 333 - sold for SGD 212,400 (including premium) / hammer price: SGD 180,000

5. Lot 38 - Zhang Daqian (Chinese) - The Hermit - sold for SGD 165,200 (including premium) / hammer price: SGD 140,000

#### **4. LOTS THAT SOLD MULTIPLE TIMES ABOVE HIGH ESTIMATES**

Lot 19 - Toro (Filipino) - Moods 333 - sold for SGD 212,400 (including premium) / hammer price SGD 180,000 against pre-sale estimate of SGD 30,000 - 40,000

Lot 35 - Ch'ng Huck Theng (Malaysian) - Apprentice - sold for SGD 25,960 (including premium) / hammer price SGD 22,000 against pre-sale estimate SGD 8,000 - 10,000

Lot 47 - Wu Chengwei (Chinese) - Lady in Red - sold for SGD 70,800 (including premium) / hammer price SGD 60,000 against pre-sale estimate SGD 20,000 - 30,000

#### **About 33 Auction**

33 Auction is one of the four Singapore registered fine art auction house. Started in 1999, the auction house is part of the owner's vision of an integrated visual arts business to support the development of visual arts in Asia.

33 Auction held her first auction in May 2009 in Singapore. Holding an average of 3 auctions annually, 33 Auction specialises in auctioning Modern and Contemporary Asian Art. We are privileged to be closely associated with many important art institutions, artists, prominent collectors as well as curators.

33 Auction strives to bring in the finest works around the world to be offered under the hammer. With a practiced eye for fine investments in Art, 33 Auction's goal is to become a major player in Asia's Arts Auction Scene.

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