



PRESS RELEASE

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## 33 Auction presents an exquisite selection of Asian's Greats in an Evening Sale on 1 Sep 2013 at Grand Hyatt Singapore



**Affandi, *European Skiing* (1954)**, estimate: SGD 250,000 - 350,000

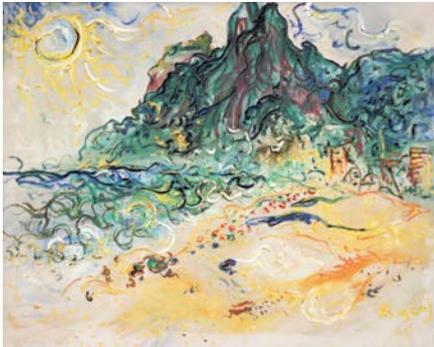
Singapore, 15 July 2013 – 33 Auction will be presenting an intriguing collection of works focusing on Asian greats – **Affandi, Lee Man Fong, Hendra Gunawan, Zhang Daqian, Lin Fengmian, Ye Yongqing, Walasse Ting, Cheong Soo Pieng, Tay Bak Koi, Liu Guosong** for its evening sale on 1 September at the Grand Hyatt. The auction offers 83 curated paintings and sculptures by South East Asian and Chinese artists which in total is estimated to fetch between SGD 3.94 to 5.38 million.

**David Fu, Specialist of 33 Auction** says “*The South East Asian art market is at its prime with the Chinese art holding steady. We have observed a growing number of discerning collectors having great appetite for important and masterpieces by great Asian artists. We have increased our efforts to source for such works of rarity and quality and we are very pleased with the collection we have for this evening sale. The auction presents opportunities for collectors, both new and established, to collect works by South East Asian artists which display equal deep appreciation for their roots as well as to their curiosity in experimenting and fusing of Western techniques.*”

## Auction Highlights:

### INDONESIAN ART

In 2013, Indonesian art has taken the world over by storm. Half a century ago in 1954, **Affandi** was the first Indonesian invited to exhibit his works in the Venice Biennale. Affandi's works are a testament to his style as an emotive, intuitive painter and his mastery of techniques. **European Skiing** (pictured on page 1) is one such rare work coming from this travelling series. It is neither romantic nor dreamy, it mirrors the actual image he saw. In it, Affandi paints a scene of slopes, skiers against a massive backdrop of a mountainous ski resort. Affandi deliberately guides his viewers to see what he sees and feels what he feels.



**Affandi, *Ipanema Beach Brazil* (1966)**  
estimate: SGD 130,000 - 180,000

Another painting from Affandi's travelling series, ***Ipanema Beach Brazil*** (pictured left) is also on offer. This piece stays true to his distinctive style of smearing paint with his hands, while squeezing huge tubes of colour onto the canvas and leaving the thick lines to dry.

**Hendra Gunawan** was one of the most important figures in Indonesia modern art history. It was during the two decades of his life in imprisonment that had earned him heroic recognition. ***Self Portrait*** (pictured on the right) is an important work by the artist painted during his imprisonment. Depicting himself as a poor man and seemingly getting sucked into another world and being attacked by wild dogs and chickens. The vibrant colours portrayed wiggles the souls of viewers, however, this painting carries a deep empathy for Hendra's concern on the struggle with poverty, oppression and war.



**Hendra Gunawan, *Self Portrait* (1972)**  
estimate: SGD 120,000 - 180,000



**Basoeki Abdullah, *Mediterranean Customs***  
estimate: SGD 380,000 - 480,000

Basoeki Abdullah's painting ***Mediterranean Customs*** (pictured on the left) is one of the largest works he has ever created and one of overseas theme. In this figuratively painted piece done in a style of realism, it showcases people both men and woman dancing in traditional Mediterranean outfits. Basoeki captures the moment of carefreeness with his intricate brush strokes. The motions of the swaying of the women's skirts glorify the essence of the untroubled and light hearted.

Chinese born artist, **Lee Man Fong** lived and worked on the coasts of Indonesia. His paintings show a mature handling of Chinese ink techniques with Indonesian compositional form. Lee's geo-political identity allows him to have a grasp of cultural art techniques and enables him to speak in a universal language, capturing the imaginations and wisdom of Southeast Asians. ***Spinner*** (pictured on the right) represents the essence of Lee's works. Elegant with a fusion of East and West, it seeks to illustrate the vibrant Southeast Asia community. As an artist, Lee's skills capture the subtle beauty of the Spinner gently spinning.



**Lee Man Fong, *Spinner***  
estimate: SGD 150,000 - 200,000

Other highlight from Indonesian art include **Srihadi Soedarsono's *Borobudur - Moment of Meditation***.

## CHINESE ART



**Zhang Daqian, *The Hermit***  
estimate: SGD 140,000 - 180,000

Besides contemporary paintings, the selection of Chinese art for this auction has also included some early ink paintings by prominent Chinese artists including Zhang Daqian, Lin Fengmian, Liu Guosong.

A prominent Chinese ink painter of the twentieth century, Zhang Daqian's art had progressed to modern impressionism and expressionism by the late 60s, and he was referred to as the 'Picasso' of China. Art Critic Alfred Frankenstein famously praised Zhang's ink splashing technique, which was both ancient and modern at the same time, as a skill that many painters could not achieve. In this painting titled ***The Hermit*** (pictured on the left), Zhang depicts a noble man who lives in seclusion from his world, only seeking solitude from meditation and contemplation without distraction of human contact. The Hermit shies a way with modesty and looks across another world filled with beautiful autumn leaves. Zhang's careful composition is reflective upon the Buddhism's philosophy on life.

A pioneer and innovator, **Lin Fengmian** is distinctively known for his infusion of European techniques with that of traditional Chinese. ***Lotus Pond*** (pictured on the right) paints a field of bamboos swaying frantically against a stormy landscape. Harsh, forceful bold strokes and dark colours awash the canvas and in contrast, a calm gliding Lotus Pond in the foreground. The use of space and light in this painting draws his audience in, giving the ambience of airiness and serenity.



**Lin Fengmian, *Lotus Pond***  
estimate: SGD 80,000 - 120,000



**Lin Fengmian, *Reeds and Wild Geese***  
estimate: SGD 70,000 - 100,000

In ***Reeds and Wild Geese*** (pictured on the left), Lin paints three geese trying to fly East, away from the twilight suggestive of 'going home'. The reeds in the foreground however, are blowing West. This subtle tension grasps a moment in time and like an infinite loop causes its audience to constantly look out of the window, always anticipating the coming twilight and the geese to fly home.

Chinese Contemporary Art scene. For ten years, Ye focused on the aspect of expressing impressions of the ambiguous view upon the minimalism of Chinese Contemporary Art. Through ***Big Bird*** (pictured right), Ye wishes to convey the revolutionary evolvement of art that is both new and traditional -- the distortion of the motif connect upon mythologies alike as opposed to the bird acting as a symbol of power in spirit.



**Ye Yongqing, *Big Bird***  
estimate: SGD 70,000 - 90,000



**Liu Guosong, *Dance of Ink (1968)***  
estimate: SGD 40,000 - 60,000

Both a modern Chinese Art painter and advocate for modern art, Liu Guosong reinvented Chinese ink painting and innovated the wash technique. ***Dance of Ink (1968)*** (pictured left) is considered one of his most influential works. Layered with multiple different techniques, it shows how ink can be experimented. The use of green ink in the background creates an atmospheric, almost dreamy landscape. Harsh glaze brushstrokes smears the landscape, disrupting the articulation of the eye, creating another dimension that the audience can discover and enjoy.

## SINGAPOREAN ART



**Chen Wen Hsi, *Boat***  
estimate: SGD 120,000 - 160,000

Another Nanyang artist to feature in this auction is **Cheong Soo Pieng**, a national treasure with his painting of Drying Salted Fish made immortal on the Singapore 50 dollars note. In his piece ***Landscape*** (pictured on the right), gazing mysteriously upon a distant house we can see light piercing out of the window, probably someone burning midnight oil. Cheong's unique colour palette employs the ambience of a dreamy approach, with the use of cool tints of blue-ish green and the wash off technique upon the background, reflecting a virtual slow moving landscape that is soundly asleep.



**Cheong Soo Pieng, *Landscape***  
estimate: SGD 42,000 - 50,000



**Tay Bak Koi, *Fisherman***  
estimate: SGD 30,000 - 40,000

A student of Cheong Soo Pieng, **Tay Bak Koi** is well-known for his oil and watercolour portrayals of urban landscapes and fishing villages. ***Fisherman*** (pictured on the left) is one of his rare pieces, displaying a deep appreciation of colours and attention to rich textural surfaces with decorative details and acute line work. Tay uses colours sparingly, playing on the resonances and complexities of the main cool hues of green and blue as seen in this artwork. A harmonious play of hues complimented by beautifully articulated composition takes the audience on a ride in to reminisce of surrealism conjured by reality.

Works by second generation artist such as Choo Keng Kwang, Lim Tze Peng, Thomas Yeo and Ong Kim Seng will also feature in the auction.

## SOUTH EAST ASIAN ART

Leading the section is Thai artist **Rearngsak Boonyavanishkul's *Commemorative of Sukhothai*** (pictured on the right). This painting transcends a rich representation of an ancient kingdom. Inspired by tradition, philosophy and history of Thai Buddhism, Rearngsak is able to depict the women beautifully. This painting deserves one's admiration and celebrates the intricacy and accuracy of details painted and the perfection of transcending the subtle beauty of a much-respected culture. Rearngsak's mastery in painting is better than a photograph. This painting tempts its viewers to look deeper as they trace the detailed and smooth blending of paint.



**Rearngsak Boonyavanishkul, *Commemorative of Sukhothai***  
estimate: SGD 30,000 - 40,000



**Toro, *Moods 333***  
estimate: SGD 30,000 - 40,000

Philippine artist **Toro** is the latest buzz among 33 Auction's collectors. Premiering in May 2013 auctions, Toro's Discovery 3080 was hammered at SGD 100,000, a whopping 10 times above its low estimate of SGD 10,000. In ***Moods 333***, Toro presents his audience with a sublime action painting. Gazing at that russet based image, the inquisitive viewer may attempt to wrestle meaning from the work's title, philosophizing or psychoanalyzing that particular combination of numbers and letters. The curious viewer may try to delve into a Holmesian 'Game', by weighing the possible with the probable, speculating about the artist's intent, reasoning the whys and wherefores of dripped paint onto canvas surface. It might be suggested that the viewer may, even more realistically, simply sit back, put their metaphorical feet up and enjoy the show.

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### **33 Auction**

33 Auction is one of 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.

### **33 AUCTION MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART SALE**

Auction will be held at **Grand Hyatt Singapore, The Gallery, Mezzanine Level** on **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013**

Auction starts at **7:30pm**

Entry by invitation only

The public viewing of the lots on offer for the auction will be held at **MOCA@Loewen, 27A Loewen Road Singapore 248839** from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013, 11am to 8pm and on 1 September 2013, 11am to 5pm

**Hi res images available upon request**

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