

33 AUCTION 2014 SPRING SALE – Rare, fresh-to-market works and a new section dedicated to Singapore artists



Modern Indonesian maestro **Hendra Gunawan**, *Never Lose Your Fighting Spirit*, estimate: SGD 250,000 - 350,000
Previously in the collection of Omar Dani, commander of the Indonesia Air Force from 1962 to 1965

29 April 2014, Singapore – 33 Auction is pleased to announce a debut of fresh-to-market, rare works from private collections in Asia and Europe and a dedicated section for Singaporean artists during its 2014 Spring auction. The full day sale starts **from 11am on Sunday, 11 May 2014, at the Grand Hyatt Singapore** after the exhibition's **public viewing on 9 and 10 May at MoCA@Loewen**.

Estimated at SGD 4.8- 5.8 million (USD 3.8 - 4.6 million), the full day sale offers a total of **186 works** by artists from Asia and for the first time in Singapore, Russian contemporary art.

Fresh from past successes with Chua Mia Tee, Choo Keng Kwang and Tay Bak Koi, 33 auction dedicates a new section of 34 lots dedicated to Singaporean artists – making it one of the most comprehensive auctions for Singapore art in recent times. Pioneer Singaporean artists like the late Chen Wen Hsi and the late Tay Bak Koi, whose “Fisherman” was sold at a record high of SGD 66,080 in the September auction make up the main highlights for the Singapore Art section.

David Fu, Director & Head Specialist, 33 Auction commented, “*Our Fifth Anniversary Evening Sale held earlier in January was a resounding success. 33 Auction has truly grown to become a trusted leader in the development of Singapore’s secondary art market. Our team work to ensure the authenticity and rarity of our artworks and this hard work has translated to the new found confidence from European collectors who make up quite a substantial source for exceptional works featured in this Spring Sale. We are also particularly*

privileged and humbled to be entrusted with an important work of Hendra Gunawan from the Omar Dani's collection "Never Lose Your Fighting Spirit". The work comes with impeccable provenance and is new to the market so we expect some intense bidding by buyers from all over the world."

As part of its strategic expansion, 33 Auction will also be introducing contemporary art from Russia. Premiering for the first time in the Singapore auction art market are Russian artists Maxim Bashev and Rinat Voligamsi whose works embodies the tensions from the underground protests and conflicts of social emancipation. Bashev's works range from neo-dada art to post-war avant garde while Voligmasi who is a muslim captures his being a minority in a contemporary world through haunting consciousness yet detached images.

On its introduction of Russian Art, **David Fu, Director & Head Specialist, 33 Auction** says, *"Russia's art scene is similar to Indonesia's, 40 years ago, when the Revolusi saw great artists like Affandi, and Srihadi emerge. The Russian art market is burgeoning now with the recent Russian Art Week in London seeing an increasing demand from ardent collectors."*

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33 Auction

33 Auction is a Singapore registered fine art auction house. 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

2014 SPRING SALE

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART

Auction will be held at **Grand Salon I, Level 2, Grand Hyatt Singapore, 10 Scotts Road, Singapore 228211**

on **Sunday, 11th May 2014**, sessions start at **11:00 am, 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm**

The public viewing of the lots on offer for the auction will be held at MOCA@Loewen, 27A Loewen Road Singapore 248839 on Friday, 9th May and Saturday, 10th May 2014, 11am to 8pm

***Hi res images available upon request**

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33 Auction Modern and Contemporary Asian Art Spring Auction 2014 presents a total of 186 works, mostly rare and fresh-to-the-market. Below are some of the highlights from the curation.

INDONESIA



Hendra Gunawan, *Never Lose Your Fighting Spirit*
Oil on canvas | 100 x 168 cm
Estimate: SGD 250,000 - 350,000

Heading the Indonesian Art section is an important work of impeccable provenance by Modern Indonesian Maestro Hendra Gunawan. “***Never Lose Your Fighting Spirit***” was presented to Omar Dani, the commander of Indonesia Air Force from 1962 to 1965, when Omar visited Hendra Gunawan’s art studio in the early 1960s. The painting portrays a wounded guerilla under the shed of trees while his chief was attending to his wounded leg. Later Omar Dani realized that the wound on the leg in the painting was exactly where he have his wound scar from the Surabaya 10 November 1945 massive battle against the British Army, later commemorated as *Hari Pahlawan* or the Indonesian Hero Day. This painting is a testament to Omar Dani spirit of not giving up and his tale from a zero to hero.



Affandi, Andong (Horsecart)
Oil on canvas | 97.5 x 127.5 cm
Estimate: SGD 250,000 - 350,000

Another highlight is Indonesian Maestro Affandi’s depiction of Andong (Horsecart). Andong is an important piece as it was painted the year immediately after he received the Peace Award from Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and earned himself a title of Grand Maestro in Florence, Italy. Painted with a swirl of colours fresh from the tube, the painting bears the trademark of Affandi’s style.

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Srihadi Soedarsono, *The Spirit of Nature*
Oil on canvas | 150 x 200 cm
Estimate: SGD 150,000 - 250,000

Srihadi Soedarsono is one of Indonesia's most-accomplished contemporary painters. Widely admired for his vividly-coloured paintings, "Borobudur" showcases Soedarsono's ability to make use of a limited colour palette to transform a plain canvas to achieve a balance between the contrasting hues of the earth and sky. The present work is his masterpiece work that shows his skillful use of colours which not only captures the likeness of a place, but also its aura.

SINGAPORE



Chen Wen Hsi, *Herons*
Ink and colour on paper | 72 x 120 cm
Estimate: SGD 120,000 - 200,000

Headlining the Singapore art section will be works by Chen Wen Hsi and Tay Bak Koi. Chen Wen Hsi was conferred by Singapore's first President, Yusof Ishak in 1964 with the Public Service Star for his contributions to the art scene in Singapore. Throughout his career, Chen received numerous accolades and recognition for his contributions to Fine Arts. Chen's work and dedication to the Fine arts have also earned him an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by then-Chancellor of the University of Singapore; a Gold Chapter gold medal award by the National Museum of History in Taiwan and being the first recipient of the ASEAN Cultural and Communications Award for outstanding artists.

The cover lot of this auction, *Herons* by Chen Wen Hsi is a great work which showcases the artist's mastery of the brush and ink medium to create a flowing composition of the herons. Acquired directly from the artist, this painting is one of the larger and most colourful work by the artist of this subject which has come into the market.

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Tay Bak Koi, *Fishing Village Scenery*
Oil on canvas | 108 x 184 cm
Estimate: SGD 30,000 - 40,000

After 33 Auction broke Tay Bak Koi's artist's record in auction, when the artist's work *Fisherman* was sold for SGD 60,080 in the 33 Auction 1st September 2013 evening sale, we are proud to present another seminal work of his. In the "Fishermen Village" series, Tay's strokes create rich textural surfaces. Not overly complicated and yet not too simplistic, this series presents a moment in time where he acts as a historian collecting images of a time when Singapore was a fishing village.

CHINA



Chen Shuzhong, *Weed Beach, Autumn Whisper*
Oil on canvas | 250 x 200 cm
Estimate: SGD 200,000 - 300,000

Headlining the Chinese artist's section of the sale is a magnificent award winning work by Chen Shuzhong. After twelve years of painting and continuous exploration, Chen Shu Zhong has developed a distinctive artistic language for himself. This style was described as employing the realist technique as his strategy, demonstrating style using the exaggeration of surrealism, and transpiring a sense of romanticism. He endorsed an artistic language reflecting the culture of the common people, and specially found a liking to narrate the livelihood of people in villages. Chen has orchestrated a lively symphony with his narration of

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the contented lives of the villagers. Chen Shu Zhong's commitment and dedication in painting his life in the village can be seen in this lot. This interesting portrayal of subjects in the most humorous narrative by Chen becomes the artist's most unique and extraordinary depiction of the country.



Ju Ming, *Taichi Series: Single Whip*
Stone sculpture | 26 × 37 × 16.5 cm
Estimate: SGD 120,000 - 160,000

Ju Ming is probably the most established contemporary sculptor in Asia. Since young, the Taiwanese-based sculptor was trained as a woodcarver. This enabled Ju to expand his artistic horizon and venture into different media such as bronze, ceramics and stainless steel. Between the 1980s and 1990s – a crucial period of Ju's creativity – the creation of the "Taichi Series" and "Living World Series" won him world recognition. The "Single Whip" featured in his notable 'Taichi Series' are beautifully sculpted forms of human spirituality that seemingly depict ethereal communication. "Single Whip" holds no resemblance to anything recognizable. As Ju is influenced by the spirituality of Taichi, this piece captures the transience of energy flowing through the body. The singularity of this sculpture emphasizes the importance of cultivating one's own energy-generation.

RUSSIAMaxim Bashev

Born in Moscow, 1961, Bashev graduated from the Moscow Art School and since 1986 has participated in exhibitions in Russia, Ukraine, Germany and USA. His earlier works can be classified as neo-dada art while recent as post-war avant-garde. Collected widely in Russia, USA and Germany, Bashev names Bacon, Keith Herring and Basquiat as his influence.

Rinat Voligamsi

Voligamsi captures the contemporary world around him through dark negative photographic replicas that borders between the consciousness of the living and the detachment of the dead. Born in Bahkir, 1968, Voligamsi graduated from the prestigious Architecture department of UFA Oil Institute and in 1994, was awarded the state prize of Russia, the highest accolade for an artist.