



TIANCHENG INTERNATIONAL TO OFFER CHINESE MASTERPIECES AT ITS INAUGURAL AUCTION OF FINE CHINESE PAINTINGS ON 6 APRIL 2013

Hong Kong, 7 March - Tiancheng International will present its **inaugural auction of *Fine Chinese Paintings*** on 6 April at The Connaught Room, 1/F of Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong. The sale features over 120 artworks from both Classical and Modern Chinese masters, which include Zhang Daqian, Wu Hufan, Qi Baishi, Xu Beihong, Fu Baoshi, Huang Binhong, Lu Yanshao and Lin Fengmian. All lots come to the market with a combined estimate of nearly HK\$ 100 million / US\$ 13 million. Public preview will start from 4 to 5 April at Hong Kong.



Of note is **Wu Hufan (1894-1968)'s *Willow Trees against Spring Clouds*** (Image left. Estimate on Request). It depicts a heavenly scenery in Jiangnan during March. The floating clouds and fog are brought to life with every skilful stroke of the ink brush. In his portrayal of the peach blossoms and willows in the springtime Jiangnan and in a village south of Yangtze River, the artist integrated the styles and techniques of a variety of artists such as Huichong, Danian, Songxue, and Hengshan, without any trace of imitation. The landscape is painted with a combination of brush stroke skills from Tang dynasty and for painting mountains landscape in Song style. With dense, solid dark lines, he presented us with a rigorous yet graceful display of craft that landscape with an exquisite ambiance that demonstrates his flawless technique as a painter. The work boasts an ethereal and sumptuous "S"-shaped setting, with a tasteful colour presentation. The painting features stone green as the main colour - with rocks and trees standing in contrast against each other and interspersed with rocks painted in ink and water, resulting in a painting with different colours, shades, and "three distances" (san yuan); with water, banks and valleys in colour and ink; and green willow trees, colourful peach blossoms, rivers and lakes that exude irresistible beauty and serenity. Coupled with the harmony of colours, the depth, profoundness and far-reaching sense of beauty of this painting makes it a masterpiece of Wu's green landscape painting comparable with the works of Wang Jian, regional governor of Lianzhou. Wu Hufan took colour as ink and applied dark and thick ink lines to the varied colour, a controversial to other artists, in a pleasant harmony between colour and ink.



As a representative of “new landscape painting”, **Fu Baoshi (1904 - 1965)**'s paintings carried profound meanings; he made good use of techniques in thick ink and rendering, perfectly integrating water, ink and colours to achieve luxuriant and majestic effects. He drew on basic, traditional techniques but innovated in his own unique way, opening new chapters in the development of new landscape paintings in China. “Illustrating beautiful stories in history” was also one of Fu Baoshi's favorite themes. He had a knack for portraying history, the beauty in which was always easily seen in his works, represented in an artistic manner, as shown in this piece titled ***Poets* (Image above. Estimate on Request)** presented at the sale. Fu's signature composition was used in this piece with figures interlaced throughout the background. The figures are divided into three groups by bushes and rocks; backgrounds are dimmed to highlight the figures in the front, making them come alive between the light and shadow, creating a dream-like imagery. Bushes are depicted using thick ink in large brushstrokes for a luscious shade, the group of scholars is shown roaming between the dense foliage, deep in thought and reciting their poetry. The artist's perfected use of fine lines to portray the poise and unrestrained demeanor of the scholars; the piece maintained the use of the classic technique of contrasting thickness in brushstrokes, and the figures are dressed in classical ancient wardrobes.

Most of **Qi Baishi (1864 - 1957)**'s inspirations came from the daily life objects with an integration of good wishes. Compared with his works of similar subjects, ***Grapes and Squirrels* (Image right. Estimate: HK\$ 4,500,000 – 5,500,000 / US\$ 580,600 – 710,000)** highlights the theme by omitting large tracts of grape leaves and vines. The rendering of colour and brushstrokes create ample space and simplicity in the composition. Depicting two squirrels with one holding a peanut and the other biting a grape, Qi sophisticatedly delivered an auspicious blessing in the painting.





During the late Qing Dynasty and the Republican period, artists were all confronted with the same challenge to inherit and expand traditional Chinese paintings. **Huang Binhong (1864-1955)**, who was famous for painting landscapes, was a master perfectly integrating tradition with creativity. There was a saying “*South Huang and North Qi*”, meaning Huang Binhong was the representative painter for southern China and Qi Baishi for northern China. **Landscape (Image left. Estimate: HK\$ 2,400,000 – 3,000,000 / US\$ 310,000 – 388,000)** to be presented this season is one of Huang’s signature pieces created at the age of sixty-eight.

Other highlights:



ZHANG DAQIAN (1899-1983)

Scholar Under Pine

ink and colour on paper, framed
dated 1947
133 x 53 cm

Exhibited:

Exhibition of Ten Major Modern Chinese Artists, Kinoshita Museum,
14 April to 31 May 1987

Literature:

Exhibition of Ten Major Modern Chinese Artists Catalogue, p9,
Kinoshita Museum, 1987

Estimate: HK\$ 8,000,000 – 12,000,000
US\$ 1,032,200 – 1,550,000



XU BEIHONG (1895-1953)
Magpie on a Willow Branch

ink and colour on paper, hanging scroll
dated 1938
107.5 x 35 cm

Exhibited:
Modern Chinese Painting and Calligraphy from the Collection of the
Kau Chi Society of Chinese Art, The Chinese University of Hong Kong,
Art Gallery,

29 August to 4 October 1987

Literature:
*Modern Chinese Painting and Calligraphy from the Collection of the
Kau Chi Society of Chinese Art*, p58, The Chinese University of Hong
Kong, Art Gallery, 1987

Estimate: HK\$ 2,500,000 – 3,500,000
US\$ 322,600 – 452,000

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Department	Auction Date / Time	Auction Venue	Preview Date / Time
Fine Chinese Paintings	6 April (Saturday) 3.30 pm	The Connaught Room, 1/F Mandarin Oriental, 5 Connaught Road, Central, Hong Kong	4 – 5 April (Thursday to Friday) 10 am – 6 pm
Modern and Contemporary Art	6 April (Saturday) 5 pm		
Jewellery and Jadeite	15 June (Saturday)	Tiancheng International 30/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong	26 - 27 May (Sunday to Monday) 12 – 14 June (Wednesday to Friday) 10 am – 6 pm



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ABOUT TIANCHENG INTERNATIONAL

Founded in January 2011, Tiancheng International is a newly established auction house led by a visionary management group and an illustrious team of experts with extensive experience in the international auction business. With solid understanding of the cultural requirements of clients and broad vision to the art world, the team aims to explore new frontiers in the Asian auction market. With its head office in Hong Kong, Tiancheng International also has branch office in Shanghai.

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