

TIANCHENG INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS
‘CONTEMPORARY LITERATI – FIVE ELEMENTS INCUBATE ALL THINGS’
IN ITS AUTUMN SALE OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART 2012

The Return and Ever-lasting of Chinese Traditional Creativity



Hong Kong, 3 September 2012 – Tiancheng International’s *Modern and Contemporary Art Autumn Sale* will be presented on 6 October 2012 (Saturday) at Tiancheng International’s Hong Kong headquarters on 30/F of Bank of China Tower, Central, Hong Kong with public preview from 3 to 5 October. Following the success of the inaugural sale in 2011, this Autumn sale will once again feature nearly a hundred pieces of exceptional modern and contemporary artworks curated under the theme of ‘Contemporary Literati’ in diversified styles. Selected highlights will also be exhibited at Taipei from 22 to 23 September.

Tiancheng International launched its inaugural ‘Contemporary Literati’ sale in November 2011, introducing ‘Posture, Shape, Nature, Spirit, Rhythm, Quality and Energy’ to explore the artistic forms and presentation. The sale was well received by achieving HKD 43 million as sales total with 98.8% sold by value and 79.3% sold by lot. To further provide audience a chance to understand and appreciate the ‘Contemporary Literati’ category, a special exhibition ‘*Beyond Representation – An Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Art*’ was organized in May 2012.

The autumn sale 2012 will continue to curate a series of artworks which combined the concept of contemporary art and the traditional Chinese aesthetics. The theme ‘Contemporary Literati’ has been receiving increasing attention from the market, not only it presents the fineness and depth of the Chinese contemporary art, but also it offers collectors a variety on the collecting choice. Tiancheng International believes this theme will continue to grow and become one of the potential collecting categories.

Developed from the concept of Five Elements, Tiancheng has laid out five categories – Metal, Wood, Water, Fire and Earth to represent the diversified characters of art in this season: from



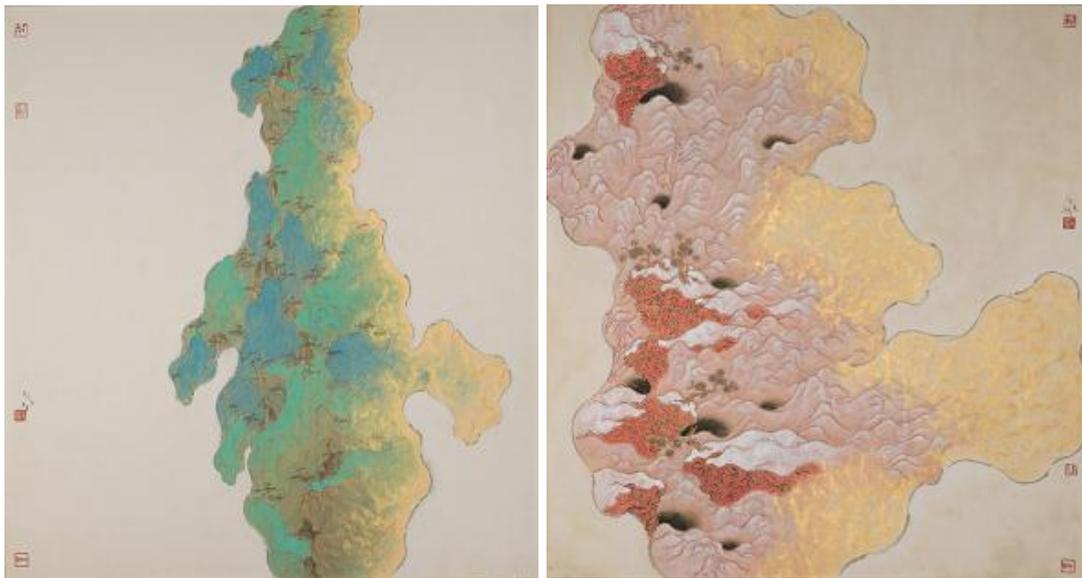
the innovative experiment on the use of media and visual effects to the chant and care for the nature; from the expression and passion of the states of things and life with the use of ink to the exploration of spatial structure and Yin-Yang (the two opposing principles in nature) concept. Tiancheng aims to highlight the distinguished features of each piece of artworks, to magnify their implied quality that fits the nature and present the unique way of thinking and aesthetic expression of the Chinese artists.



Of note is a series of contemporary artworks which are rarely seen in the auction market. **SHAO FAN** (Beijing, China, 1964 -), a sculpture of **Lohan's Eyebrow** and a painting of **Lohan with Long Eyebrows** which come in a set (Image above. Estimate: HKD 1,500,000 – 2,000,000 / USD 194,000 – 258,000) is one of the highlights. This is a pair of interesting art pieces of great contrasts, presenting the best relationship between painting and sculpture. The artist used two different materials to recall the Chinese philosophical concept of 'unity of nature and humanity' and the aesthetics of 'appreciating oldness and ugliness', revealing the wisdom and humour inherited from the ancient Chinese culture. A review of Shao Fan by Demetrio Paproni, an Italian art critic, best describes this set of artwork: '*SHAO aims to recreate an aesthetic that frees itself from Western influence by following Chinese tradition*'. The artist extracts from the spirit and core values of the Chinese aesthetics, creating a diversified and beautiful visual system and extricating from the Western cultural assimilation on Chinese modern and contemporary art, and finally returns to the tradition of Chinese culture.



YE FANG (Suzhou, China, 1962 -)'s *Yan Mountain I & II* (Image below. Estimate: HKD 650,000 – 850,000 / USD 84,000 – 110,000) is another important set of Tiancheng's selection. This set of paintings depicted a variation of mountains and rocks in the beauty of the literati's liberty and romance by simple strokes. Ye Fang's creations are all about Chinese garden, where he lives and works, making him accomplish a real combination between art and lifestyle and enrolling his entire life state into art. His artworks are also fulfilled with his cultural ideology, which manifests his connotation, style and characteristics.



Other highlights include a number of artworks from highly-potential artists whose artworks are superb examples of merging the traditional Chinese aesthetics and the modern life. They are regarded as the new generation of the Chinese modern and contemporary art. **JIANG JI'AN** (Shandong, China, 1967 -) is one of the most outstanding artists in contemporary meticulous-style paintings. His artworks are filled with his sophisticated art vocabulary. Inspired by the classic paintings on fans, scrolls and ceramics, he takes the way of appreciation into his major consideration to integrate the subject matter with its surroundings in one painting. *Next Door No. 1* (Image right. Estimate: HKD 250,000 – 350,000 / USD 32,200 – 45,200) is one of his best works in the series. Jiang successfully conveys multiple layers of viewing points in this work – the first layer is the actual viewer gazing the painting from real life, the second is the round window which signifies a peeking hole that leads us to the third layer, an exhibition space depicted at the centre of the painting. With his meticulous technique, Jiang's work is a well





blend of modern spirit and classical character which creates an illusion beyond space and depth.



Masters' pieces are always of sought after in the market. ***Bird and Ink Mountain*** (Image left. Estimate: HKD 3,800,000 – 5,800,000 / USD 490,000 – 748,000) is the work of **CHAO CHUNG-HSIANG** (Taiwan, 1910-1991) created in 70s to 80s, a peak period of Chao's artistic career. The composition is bold and creative, with three quarters of it occupied by the heavy ink to depict the mountain view. The artist eliminated any colour or detail to ensure the purity and the contrast between Yin-Yang won't be diluted. Ink was used as the only medium which perfectly demonstrates the nature and unrestraint of the literati in Song Dynasty. The piece delivers a sense of openness and infinity, embodying the idea of 'Imaginary White' in Chinese aesthetics together with the representation of Western abstract paintings, which perfectly expresses the master's demeanour.

OTHER SALE HIGHLIGHTS:



KOON WAIBONG

Sauntering

Ink on silk (Triptych)

Total: 213 x 137.4cm Executed in 2011

Estimate: HKD 170,000 – 230,000

USD 22,000 – 30,000



LIU GUOSONG

Rising Blue Moon

Ink and colour on paper

60.5x90 cm Executed in 1970

Estimate: HKD 600,000 – 800,000

USD 77,400 – 103,200

Auction Details

Date: 6 October 2012 (Saturday)

Time: 4 p.m.

Venue: Tiancheng International
30/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

Hong Kong Preview

Date: 3-5 October 2012 (Wednesday - Friday)

Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Venue: Tiancheng International
30/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

Taipei Preview

Date: 22-23 September 2012 (Saturday - Sunday)

Time: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Venue: Le Méridien Taipei Art Space
1/F, Le Méridien Taipei, 38 SongRen Road, Xinyi District, Taipei

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 offices in Shanghai and Taipei.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Connie Huang connie.huang@tianchengauction.com +852 2150 0782 / +852 9077 3984

**** Image upon request ****

Please visit www.tianchengauction.com
for more details about Tiancheng International's Autumn auctions 2012.