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## SOTHEBY'S HONG KONG MODERN ART AUTUMN SALES SERIES

**EVENING SALE LED BY TWO SIGNIFICANT MASTERPIECES**  
**EACH REPRESENTING THE ARTISTS' "MODERN VISION"**

**Zao Wou-Ki's *21.04.59***

Museum-Quality Work from the "Oracle Bone Period"

AND

**Sanyu's *Nu Rose Sur Tissus Chinois***

An Extremely Rare Classic Work by the Artist from the 1930s

**- Both Appearing at Auction for the First Time Ever -**



Zao Wou-Ki, *21.04.59*

**Modern Art Evening Sale**

**Auction: 5 October, 18:30**

Hong Kong Public Exhibition: 3-5 October

**Modern Art Day Sale**

**Auction: 6 October, 14:30**

Hong Kong Public Exhibition: 3-6 October

**Hong Kong, 12 September 2019**

Two significant masterpieces will lead Sotheby's Modern Art Evening Sale in Hong Kong on 5 October 2019: Zao Wou-Ki's powerful *21.04.59*, making its auction debut after having been exhibited extensively since the 1970s – and Sanyu's elegant *Nu Rose Sur Tissus Chinois* – also appearing at auction for the first time since it was created in the 1930s. A total of 33 lots will be offered in the evening sale, estimated to bring in the region of more than HKD 403 million (USD 51 million).

The Modern Art Day Sale on 6 October brings together a remarkable group of artworks from across Asia and Europe, including Lin Fengmian's *Nude* from the 1970s, Foujita's *Portrait de Jeune Femme aux roses*, and a selection of exceptional works by post-war pioneers.

**Vinci Chang, Sotheby's Head of Modern Asian Art**, comments: "Following the successful 'Modern Rangers' series this spring, we are delighted to build on this momentum by presenting the 'Modern Vision' series this season in Hong Kong. It is a delicate curation of masterpieces, presenting collectors with a revolutionary experience brought by the rise of modernism. With florals and nudes as the two main themes, the sale brings together exquisite pieces by Sanyu, Wu Guanzhong and Tsuguharu Foujita, creating an unparalleled collecting opportunity for art connoisseurs worldwide."

### **MODERN CHINESE MASTERS FOCUS : ZAO WOU-KI**

Modern Art Evening Sale, 5 October



**Zao Wou-Ki, *21.04.59***

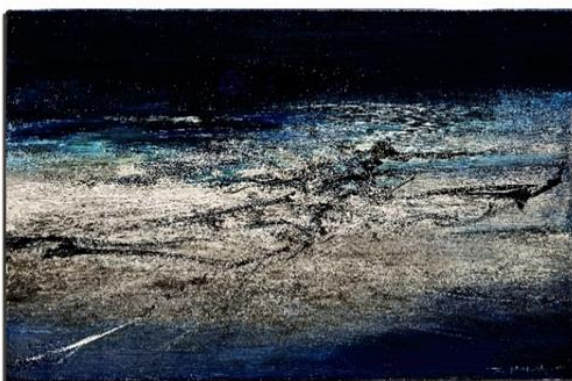
**1959, oil on canvas, 130 by 162 cm**

**Est. HKD 75,000,000 – 100,000,000 / USD 9,570,000 – 12,750,000**

Zao Wou-Ki's "Oracle Bone Period" masterpiece *21.04.59* embodies the words written by South Song dynasty painter Chen Rong on his painting "Cloud Dragon". The powerful brushstrokes traverse the canvas, creating strings of crisscrossing abstract shapes which seem to resemble words, yet are not actual words. These shapes leap and clash with one another, creating a vast, unprecedented display of energy. Produced in 1959, *21.04.59* was painted during a stage in Zao's artistic career when he was expressing on canvas his views on

life and the universe as he embarked on an internal voyage of discovery. This breathtaking composition clearly reflects Zao's fascination with elemental life forces during this period.

Since the 1970s, the painting has been exhibited 16 times across Asia, Europe and South America. As the most representative example of the artist's Oracle Bone series, and, undoubtedly a museum-quality work, *21.04.59* is appearing at auction for the first time.



**Zao Wou-Ki, *01.10.62***

**1962, oil on canvas, 60 by 92 cm**

**Est. HKD 12,000,000 – 28,000,000 / USD 1,530,000 – 3,570,000**

Zao Wou-ki experienced emotional turmoil in the late 1950s and decided to go on an extended journey, during which he became deeply unsettled by the post-war American abstract expressionist movement. This inspired his artistic direction over the following decade. Painted at the start of this period, *01.10.62* is representative of Zao's artistic rebirth, marking the

beginning of a period that would come to be regarded as the pinnacle of his career.

**FEMALE NUDE MASTERPIECES**  
Modern Art Evening Sale, 5 October



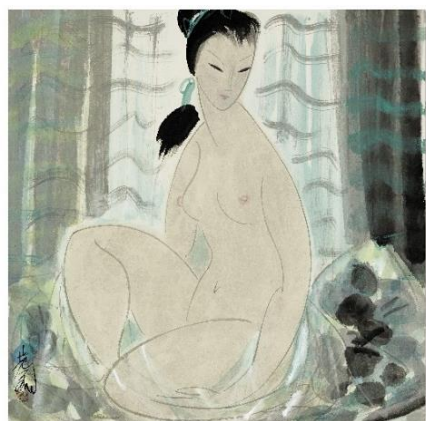
**Sanyu, *Nu Rose Sur Tissus Chinois***  
1930s, oil on canvas, 45.2 by 81.2 cm  
Est. HKD 35,000,000 – 45,000,000 /  
USD 4,470,000 – 5,740,000

Female nudes were an important theme throughout Sanyu's career; from his arrival in Paris in the 1920s up until his final years in the 1960s, he retained a strong interest in the female body. *Nu Rose Sur Tissus Chinois* is one of Sanyu's classic works from the 1930s, in which he pays homage to the tradition of classical Western masterpieces, yet in his own distinctive style, with his signature exaggeration and distortion of the body.

Sanyu's nudes from the 1930s are extremely rare. According to the artist's catalogue raisonné, only 19 works survived, of which just seven have appeared on the international auction market over the last 40 years. At auction for the first time ever, *Nu Rose Sur Tissus Chinois* presents a singular opportunity for collectors.

**Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita, *Jeune Femme au Petit Chien***  
1929, oil on canvas, 73.3 x 100.5 cm  
Est. HKD 10,000,000 – 20,000,000 /  
USD 1,280,000 – 2,550,000

Foujita's ingenious combination of Japanese Kanō and Ukiyo-e art styles with Western painting styles from the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods established his standing as the first renowned Asian artist in Paris. *Jeune Femme au Petit Chien* is a characteristic example of his depiction of milky white skin, which was fashionable among women in the Parisian art world. Referencing the iconic "reclining nude" motif in Western art, this painting of a fair-skinned lady is imbued with the graceful ambience of the East. With a faint wash of coral red in the background, at the time a rarely used hue, *Jeune Femme au Petit Chien* conveys a deeply romantic atmosphere.



**Lin Fengmian, *Figure***  
1980s, ink and colour on paper, 69.6 x 70.2 cm  
Est. HKD 2,000,000 – 4,000,000 / USD 255,000 – 510,000

Lin Fengmian studied in Paris during the 1920s. After his return to China, Lin established the China Academy of Art, and has often been considered to be the pioneer of modern Chinese art. *Figure* is heavily influenced by Fauvism's use of colour and lines, revitalising what Lin believed was an ailing Eastern artistic style.

## FLORAL THEME

Modern Art Evening Sale, 5 October



**Sanyu, *Pot de fleurs rouges***

1930-40s, oil on canvas, 92 by 60.3 cm

Est. HKD 28,000,000 – 40,000,000 / USD 3,570,000 – 5,100,000

Sanyu's floral paintings are generally of potted plants, signifying the notion of the self and solidarity. *Pot de fleurs rouges* is the artist's largest work of potted roses from his early career, radiating a sense of romance with its distinctive motif.



**Wu Guanzhong, *Longevity and Harvest***

1959, oil on canvas, 100 x 60.5 cm

Est. HKD 7,000,000 – 10,000,000 / USD 895,000 – 1,280,000

Wu Guanzhong's paintings of flowers are hugely symbolic. *Longevity and Harvest* is by far the largest painting produced by the artist in the 1950s, and was one of his earliest oil paintings of flowers. The work embodies the artistic direction Wu was taking in the early stages of his career.

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



**Guan Liang, *Legend of The White Snake***

Ink and colour on paper, 95.5 by 178 cm

Est. HKD 2,000,000 – 4,000,000 / USD 255,000 – 510,000



**Ju Ming, *Guan Gong***

1990, Wood, 73 by 83 by 216.4 cm

Est. HKD 6,000,000 – 8,000,000 /  
USD 765,000 – 1,020,000



**Lalan, *Sans titre***

1968-1970, oil on canvas, 114 by 146 cm

Est. HKD 1,200,000 – 2,600,000 / USD 153,000 – 332,000



**Hsiao Chin, *Samadhi-23***

2000, acrylic on canvas, 160 by 130.4 cm

Est. HKD 700,000 – 1,500,000 /  
USD 89,500 – 192,000

## IMAGE DOWNLOAD

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:****I) SOTHEBY'S HONG KONG AUTUMN SALES 2019 CALENDAR (*The schedule is subject to change*)**

Auctions	Category
4 Oct	Finest & Rarest Wines and Spirits Featuring The Magnificent Cellar of Park B. Smith A Glorious Burgundy Collection
5 Oct	Modern Art Evening Sale Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Art Evening Sale The Distinguished Cellar of a Pioneering Collector
6 Oct	Modern Art Modern & Contemporary Southeast Asian Art Contemporary Art Evening Sale Moutarderie Nationale: The Gillion Crowet Collection Fine Classical Chinese Paintings
7 Oct	Contemporary Art Fine Chinese Paintings Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite
8 Oct	Important Chinese Art Important Watches

Selling Exhibitions	Category
10 Sep – 9 Oct	Hsiao Chin – Infinite Universe
3 – 7 Oct	Panorama: A New Perspective Old Masters / A Brush with Italy Barry Flanagan Selling Exhibition
3 – 8 Oct	Sotheby's Diamonds Sotheby's Wine Retail

**HONG KONG EXHIBITION AND AUCTION VENUE**

Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (New Wing), 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

**II) MODERN ART: ASIA TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS CALENDAR**

Date	City	Venue
4 – 5 Sep	Shanghai	Four Seasons Hotel
7 – 8 Sep	Beijing	Beijing Park Hyatt
21 – 22 Sep	Taipei	Hua Nan Bank International Convention Center

**II) FOR MORE NEWS FROM SOTHEBY'S**

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of Sotheby's Financial Services, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection advisory services of its subsidiary, Art Agency, Partners. Sotheby's presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

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*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

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