



天成國際拍賣有限公司  
Tiancheng International Auctioneer Limited

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Tiancheng International to offer Rodin's *Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant*



Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), *Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant*, bronze, estimate upon request  
Inscribed with the signature *Auguste Rodin* and with the foundry mark *Alexis RUDIER. Fondateur. PARIS*  
Height: 32 ¼ inches 82 cm

**Hong Kong, 10 October 2011 - Tiancheng International Auctioneer Limited will offer *Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant (Pierre de Wissant, tête colossale)*, a bronze head sculpture in colossal form by the legendary Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) at Tiancheng International's inaugural auction on **November 28<sup>th</sup>** in Hong Kong.**

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*Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant* is an enlarged cast of the head of one of the figures from Rodin's famous *Monument to the Burghers of Calais*, one of the greatest works of public art of the nineteenth century. The latter, signifying patriotism and heroism, depicts six burghers from Calais, a town in the north of France, who volunteered to sacrifice their lives to save their homeland during England's invasion in 1347. Pierre de Wissant was one of the burghers and Rodin's rendition of him was considered as the most moving and popular.

*Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant* was recognized as a great piece of artwork when it was first exhibited in 1909 in Berlin. The 82 cm tall bronze head carries communicative emotion that vividly expresses the fear and courage of Pierre de Wissant when facing death. It has been exhibited in open air for years, and has acquired rich and variegated natural patinas.

"This large head of Pierre de Wissant is an outstanding example of Rodin's work which captures the fear, pathos and courage of Pierre de Wissant in an expressive way. It is a museum quality masterpiece because of its historical significance, provenance and condition. We are honoured to present this work at our inaugural auction." said Ingrid Lam, CEO of Tiancheng International.

This *Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant* is produced by Rodin's most preferred maker – the Alexis Rudier foundry. The piece has been in the Rudier family's private collection for decades. It is a rare work to be available in the market. The last time it was offered for auction was in 1979.

Prior to the auction, the sculpture will be exhibited in Shanghai, Beijing, Xiamen, Taipei and Hong Kong. Viewing in Hong Kong will be held at Tiancheng's office, 30/F of Bank of China Tower, from 25 to 27 November.



## **AUCTION**

Date: 28 November, 2011 (Monday)  
Time: 4 pm  
Venue: Tiancheng International Auctioneer Limited  
30/F Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong  
Auction Categories: Modern and Contemporary Art - Contemporary Literati  
The Sculpture of Rodin  
Chinese Works of Art  
Jewellery and Jadeite

## **TRAVELLING EXHIBITION**

Date	City	Venue
25-26 Oct 10am – 6pm	Shanghai	Jin Jiang Hotel 1/F Banquet Hall 59 Maoming Road (S)
28-29 Oct 10am – 6pm	Beijing	St. Regis Hotel Great Hall Ballroom 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie
2-3 Nov 10am – 6pm	Xiamen	Humble Art & Antique Museum Building C, Bailu Zhou East Park, Hubin Middle Road
12-13 Nov 10am – 6pm	Taipei	Le Méridien Taipei 1/F, My Humble House Art Gallery 38 Song Ren Road, Xinyi District
25-27 Nov 10am – 6pm	Hong Kong	Tiancheng International 30/F Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central



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### **ABOUT TIANCHENG INTERNATIONAL**

Founded in May 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.

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