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TIANCHENG INTERNATIONAL AUTUMN AUCTIONS 2013
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART &
FINE CHINESE PAINTINGS
TO TAKE PLACE ON 25 NOVEMBER

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE THEME OF
'REDISCOVERING THE AESTHETIC VALUE OF VISUAL ARTS'
SHOWCASING ARTISTIC STYLES OF
'DESCRIPTION', 'STRUCTURE', 'EXPRESSION'
AND
ZHANG DAQIAN's EXQUISITE
SCHOLAR UNDER THE SYCAMORE



AI XUAN *Distant Cloud* 2013 ink and colour on xuan paper 90 x 97cm (35 3/8 x 38 1/8in.)

Est. HK\$ 200,000-300,000/US\$ 25,800-38,700*

PREVIEW	22 – 24 NOV
	25 NOV
AUCTIONS	3pm Fine Chinese Paintings 4pm Modern and Contemporary Art

HONG KONG, 30 October 2013 Tiancheng International's Modern and Contemporary Art, and Fine Chinese Paintings Autumn Auctions 2013 will be held on 25 November, at Tiancheng International's headquarters on 30/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong. With the theme of visual art styles, the current modern and contemporary art auction presents artworks in three categories, namely 'Description: Expression and Capture,' 'Structure: Tableau Construction,' and 'Expression: Express Emotion,' showcasing important works by acclaimed artists including Chu Teh-chun, Ai Xuan, Li Jin, Liu Xing He, Xiao Qing, Zhang Guanbin and many more. In the fine Chinese paintings section, works by Zhang Daqian, Qi Baishi, Zhao Shao'ang, Tang Yun, Feng Zi Kai and so on will be presented as well.

Ms. Sidney Kuo, the spokesperson of Tiancheng International's Modern and Contemporary Art Department, remarked "Throughout the time-honoured visual art history, artists have been challenging themselves on the possibilities of creating and building signature artistic styles on a two dimension level. Contemporary artists, particularly, face more acute challenges due to the even wider options of medium. Nonetheless, such difficulties urge and inspire the artist to experiment, conclude and most importantly, give birth to the wondrous world full of artistic styles and forms.

"This autumn, Tiancheng International heartily presents our auction under the theme of 'Rediscovering the Aesthetic Value of Art'. Through a focused and meticulously curated set of artworks, we will present to our valued collectors important artworks of different styles and forms adopted by Chinese modern and contemporary artists. This auction is divided into three categories: 1. Description (how artists describe their subject and its essence), 2. Structure (how artists define the world with line and space), and 3. Expression (the pure output of emotions with rhythmicity). Also, given the renaissance of Sinology and the return of calligraphy, we are pleased to also branch out to a subsection of 'The Art of Calligraphy' from the 'Description' section. Through the works of four popular contemporary calligraphers, we will intricately, yet concretely, introduce the manifestation of calligraphy within a contemporary context. In short, we are positive that our exquisite offerings this season will be a delight to art connoisseurs."

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AUCTION

25 NOV | 4PM

1. Description: Expression and Capture

Artistic creation often originates from the imitation of nature, as the artist's uniqueness becomes slowly established after repeated and careful revision of the artist. This current section of 'Description' features artworks that 'describe' - from portraying the landscapes, to the accurate expression of the psychological aspect of a character. The artists from this section showcase their masterly skills of presenting the subject and its essence, contagiously influencing the beholder and render themselves a shining distinction on the art market.

HONG JUI-LING (HONG RUI-LIN) *The Working Miners* 1954

oil on canvas 33 x 41cm (13 x 16 1/8in.)

Est HK\$ 900,000 – 1,200,000/ US\$ 116,000 – 155,000

In the three decades from 1938 to 1972, Hong Rui-lin lived and worked alongside miners. He recorded the most realistic figures of the miners and their living environment in sketches, and allowed his innate humanitarianism to become the theme of his creativity; he established an approach unlike any other, making his *Miners Collection* a valuable series in Taiwan's art history.



Executed in 1954, *The Working Miners* is one of the most mature pieces in Hong's collection. The miners of the painting are but sketchily delineated, with their physique appearing rough and unidentified, to metaphorically represent the general laborer. The gloomy and claustrophobic ambiance inside the mine, as well as the tanned, muscular bodies, are all convincingly presented through the use of dark hues with a dismal overtone. Without going into details, the artist chose to forego the faces and the focus on the substance, as capturing the essence with bold, Chinese-ink-like lines results in an image even more realistic than the actual forms. Hong Rui-lin's honourable and introverted personality allowed him to produce a raw expression of passion in this piece, making it an exceptionally moving work of art.

AI XUAN *Distant Cloud* 2013

ink and colour on xuan paper 90 x 97cm (35 3/8 x 38 1/8 in.)

Est. HK\$ 200,000 - 300,000/ US\$ 25,800 – 38,700



Ai Xuan is a leading artist in Chinese 'Scar Art', also a central figure in China's realism movement. Committed to exploring Tibetan themes and characters in his works, the artist deploys realist techniques to reflect personal emotions and perception of life. His paintings often place the subject against a desolate background. Whereas the subject appears delicate and refined, the image's overtone is pure and profoundly enchanting. The practice of using white space in Chinese paintings is skillfully embraced in his works, accenting the solitude of human existence and the true meaning of life.

Distant Cloud is one of the ink paintings that Ai began releasing in recent years, and is an iconic piece in his *Tibet Series*. Ai has successfully created a mellow sense of sorrow in the current piece, portraying life as increasingly fragile yet ever so precious. Contrasting man and nature, he conveys the constant fight and tribulations of reality, among which he seeks the value of existence and brings out the beauty in our primitive struggle and sadness. The piece retains the detailing and realism that are key to oil paintings, whilst also pursuing the linear and smudging effects of ink painting. The result is a more vivid and ethereal visual experience, making this a notable piece of ink work in recent years. The piece is authenticated by the artist himself, making it a rare find.

LIU QING HE *Spring Scenery* 2003-2004
ink and colour on paper 68.5 x 69.5cm (27 x 27 3/8in.)
Est. HK\$ 150,000 – 180,000/ US\$ 19,400 – 23,200

Liu Qing He's artistic development is closely connected to the 80-year history of Chinese contemporary art. In the last 20 years, Liu has already created a charming language of his own, and established himself as a key advocate of Chinese contemporary ink painting.

Based on his long-term observations of the changes and mutual infiltration of the city and the countryside, as well as the criticisms and hopes he had for the reality he lives in, he transformed his vision of traditional culture into a slightly idealistic mode of countryside living - one that saw friends having a leisurely time gathered around a swimming pool. All the happenings around the outskirts of the city, and characters who struggle and indulge in life - are the subjects of his paintings, among which young women are his favourite.



Spring Scenery is a prime example of the artist's style. Through depicting young women, Liu pursues the truth about life and youth. Youth, life, lust and other primitive desires of humankind are all portrayed in a subtle, Chinese ink-painting manner, and the vitality resulting from this blend of the real and the classic renders his work charmingly rich in contemporary characteristics.

LI JIN *The Beauty- Liu Ye* 2006
ink and colour on paper 34.5 x 137cm (13 1/2 x 54in.)
Est. HK\$ 160,000 – 180,000/ US\$ 20,600 – 23,200



Most of Li Jin's works borrow muse from everyday scenarios such as food and women, bringing out the intrigues of modern man through his plain and humorous artistic vocabulary. The current work showcases the banality and pure sensual desires in contemporary times - the lady dressed in fierce yellow and red, sitting flirtatiously with a cigarette in hand, boldly expressing the forwardness of the modern woman. The half-naked man represents the artist himself, whose desire for the lady is frank and adorable. Together with the woman, pets, and the plants from the background, the painting is imbued with a nonchalant ambiance. This piece of both traditional literati paintings' overtone and the obvious contemporary elements marks the signature style of the artist, as his techniques, subject, and emotions are all organically combined to give a pleasurable visual experience.

DESCRIPTION – ‘THE ART OF CALLIGRAPHY’

With the revival of Chinese calligraphy, the current section showcases works by different contemporary calligraphic artists, who, through traditional calligraphy, ‘describe’ within the contemporary context, re-emphasising the importance of ‘expressing’ in Chinese culture, as well as the traditional aesthetic of linearity.

ZHANG DA WO *Out of Vision* about 2011

ink on paper 69 x 137cm (27 1/8 x 54in.)

Est. HK\$ 160,000 – 200,000/ US\$ 20,600 – 25,800



Under the influence of the ‘85 Movement’ in the 1980s, Zhang Da Wo began his exploration of contemporary calligraphy. On the path of transformation and innovation of Chinese contemporary calligraphy, he is one of the artists to have travelled the longest and furthest, and who has seen the most prominent results. He proposed the ‘openness’ of calligraphy, completely disassembling the characters into abstract elements. The meaning of the text is thus transformed into weightless symbols, which then float with artistic imageries to interpret the emotions that the original content intended to convey. Zhang has brought a new level of vitality to Chinese calligraphy, and is held in high acclaims by Western art critics, with his contemporary calligraphy even collected in the British Museum.

BU-ZI *A Poem of Du Fu: Orioles on the Willow* 2010

ink on paper, calligraphy scroll (set of five)

total 210 x 110cm (82 5/8 x 43 3/8 in.)

Est. HK\$ 180,000 – 200,000/ 23,200 – 25,800

A Poem of Du Fu: Orioles on the Willow features an acclaimed seven-character quatrain by Tang Dynasty poet Du Fu, written while he was residing in Chengdu’s Huan Hua Xi, to describe the stream-side scenery surrounding his thatched cottage. Bu Zi demonstrates his nimble calligraphy across five panel screens, with an arrangement of white space that is rich in melody, showcasing the ebb and flow of intonation, in a lively and unrestrained rhythm, making this piece a pleasure to look at and read.



2. Structure: Tebleau Composition

The artists from this section undergo rational analysis of the nature of their subjects, further constructing a structure and composition through lines and space. The structure rearranges the world into order, bringing new perspectives of artistic appreciations.

LIANG QUAN *Sailing - After 2012* 2012
ink, colour and xuan paper collage on paper
90 x 60cm (35 3/8 x 23 5/8 in.)
Est. HK\$ 68,000 – 88,000/ US\$ 8,800 – 11,400

In *Sailing-After 2012*, Liang deploys the traditional wet-mounting technique. Persistently patching layers of xuan papers to create visual layers of depth, the artist recollects his own memory and sensitivities in the painstaking progress. The soft-coloured surface does not engender conflicted elements or tenseness of emotions, but rather a harmonic and congenial presence that calls for the distant memory – an innovative abstraction style from East.



CHU WEI-BOR (ZHU WEIBAI) *Philosophize* 1995
Acrylic, mixed media on canvas 59.5 x 49.5cm (23 3/8 x 19 1/2 in.)
Est. HK\$ 30,000 – 50,000/ 3,900 – 6,500

Chu Wei-Bor is a pioneer of the modernism movement in Taiwan's art scene. Leveraging the essence of the East as the foundation of his creativity, he is committed to exploring forms of Western contemporary art. In his creative process spanning nearly six decades, he has established his own unique foothold in both the continuous exploration of materials and techniques, as well as in concept and style, making him a prominent artist in the realm of Chinese art in the 20th century. His work is highly diverse in material and medium, and he is particularly renowned for his mastery of linear and spatial structures.

Set against a bright red background, the work *Philosophize* features white and black cotton strings that penetrate through the surface to create a sense of speed and tension, challenging the traditional two-dimensional assumptions. The work not only exhibits a pure modern presence, but also conveys Chu's realisation of life through seamless access between virtuality and reality, and his perspective on the integration and interconnection between Eastern and Western art.

3. Expression: Express and Emotion

This section features artists who steer away from imitation to focus on the pure expression of the spirit and emotions. Through the rhythmicity of the body, they create artworks of abstractionism and power that are inspiringly stirring.

Chu Teh-chun *Untitled 1 & Untitled 2*

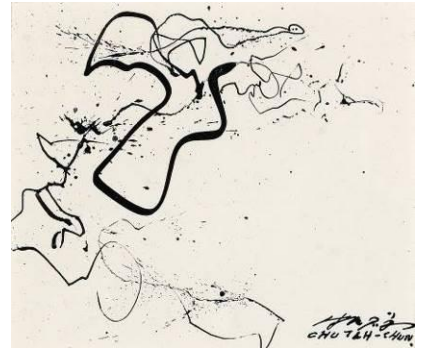
Ink on paper (a set of two) 10 x 11cm and 13 x 11cm

(4 x 4 3/8 in. & 5 1/8 x 4 3/8 in.)

Est. HK\$ 60,000 – 80,000/ US\$ 7,800 – 10,300

An elegantly rare set by Chinese abstractionist Chu Teh-chun, the two pieces respectively demonstrate the rhythm of lines, as well as the poise, clear cut and charm of the ink dots. Though seemingly a result of the artist's spontaneous musings, *Untitled 1* (pictured top) records the painstaking efforts to produce the unbroken, delicate and yet dynamic lines from the tip of the brush. Whereas the finest lines are full of gentility and elasticity, the turns can be powerful as a dragon's tail, further accented by the ink drops naturally left on the paper.

The current pieces organically amalgamate the aesthetic essence and style of East and West, perfectly presenting the dot, the line and the plane within a composed space. Though tiny in size, these works fully embody Chu's unparalleled artistry, rendering it a surprisingly pleasant art to appreciate.



XIAO QIN (HSIAO CHIN) *Opening and Closing No.1 & Opening and Closing No.2* 1960

Ink and colour on paper (a set of two) 41 x 60cm and 40 x 59cm (16 1/8 x 23 5/8 in. & 15 3/4 x 23 1/4 in.)

Est. HK\$ 70,000 – 90,000/ US\$ 9,000 – 11,600



The current set was produced during Xiao's arrival at Italy in pursuit of the golden era of his artistic life. Amid the blossoming of artistic styles and streams back in the 60s Europe, the young Xiao was full of confidence in his artistry, which was clearly represented on the current *Opening and Closing* set.



An organic combination of the eastern Zen and the unhinged passion of western expressionism, the paintings flare up the intensity through calligraphic lines and metaphysical, abstract elements, dynamically creating an orderly composition. As the artist precisely places each ink and colour dot, the whole picture seemingly becomes an indestructible magnified field, in which every element is closely knitted and hinged to deliver the best balance. The paintings are a superb example of Xiao's early works, fully embodying the boldness and firmness of his youthful years.

LIU XIONGJUN (LIU HSIUNG-CHUN) *Growth and Decline 8* 2013

Ink on paper (a set of 16) total 143 x 144cm (56 1/4 x 56 3/4in.)

Est. HK\$ 68,000 – 88,000/ US\$ 8,800 – 11,400



Leading a reclusive life in Kaohsiung, Liu remains undisturbed by worldly cares to preserve his attributes of a traditional literati. The artist embarked on his artistic journey after leaving his teaching position in 2004, when he started to fully embrace his beloved world of ink paintings. Liu is a travelling enthusiast, his journey to the snowy world of the wintry northern China substantially enriched his visual experience, which motivated him to create the Growth and Decline Series.

Created in 2013, *Growth and Decline 8* displays artist's 30-year artistic foundation and unrivalled insight. Liu's insightful observation of the status of the melting snow inspired him on the relationship between Heaven and Earth, and between the inked space and the white space, which was further extracted to be the abstract aesthetic of the current work. Through meticulous use of ink and outstanding arrangements, the artist deftly transmogrifies his personal visual experience into pure expression of emotions. The current work comprising 16 pieces appears to be simultaneously connected and disconnected, with every piece standing alone as an exquisite item showcasing different levels of ink smudging and the use of lines, or combining to generate the intensity of a massive abstract painting. The intensity between each of the 16 pieces is subject to changes, orchestrating a delicate rhythm.

FINE CHINESE PAINTINGS AUCTION

25 Nov | 3PM

Selected Highlights

ZHANG DAQIAN *Scholar Under the Sycamore*

ink and colour on paper, hanging scroll 118 x 46cm (46 1/2 x 18 1/8in.)

Est. HK\$ 2,600,000 – 3,000,000/ US\$ 335,500 – 387,000

The sycamore tree is a time-honoured Chinese symbol for virtuous attributes of a person. The current painting composed of a sycamore as the subject magnifies such qualities by highlight its height, sturdiness and sleekness, with an honourable old man with scare hair sitting forlornly on a bare slope, quietly watching the burbling river and negligent of worldly cares.

The poem, which is believed to be Shi Tao's work, includes various imageries of the sycamore, the phoenix couple, the cold moon, and the bare guzheng, mutually echoing the visual theme of painting. Zhang's work portrays the nonchalance through the subject of sycamore, whilst the character is meticulously and skillfully executed to the slightest details of its beard and hair by strong and certain lines. Such contrasting techniques further accentuate a sense of solitude, self-alienation and independence of the artist, as well as his nostalgia and impeccable, stainless character. The current work is collected from the member of the renowned Li family (李祖桐).



HUANG BINHONG *Memory of Mount Huang*

ink and colour on paper, framed 132.5 x 45.5cm (52 1/8 x 18in.)

Est: HK\$ 2,300,000 – 2,500,000/US\$ 297,000 – 323,000

A pioneer in Chinese modern art, Huang is applauded as the 'Best Master of Ink in History'. This current painting by Huang depicts a village amid the moist and foggy ambiance. The using of white space and the ink lines, as well as the dots found at the stone bridge, straw house, trees and so on, are well-balanced to showcase the artist's versatility and mastery in his techniques. Modeled after the manner of writing seal characters, the details are finished with Huang's docile and yet powerful lines. The current work clearly manifests Huang's moving away from the traditional way to establish his own styles.

TANG YUN *Joy of Harvest* 1951 ink and colour on paper, framed 26 x 69cm (10 1/4 x 27 1/8in.)
 Est. HK\$ 500,000 – 600,000/ US\$ 65,000 – 78,000



The first day of Lunar New Year denotes a brand new beginning, on which people would often decorate their desk with fortune objects and a vase of seasonal plants, in the hope of expressing the blessings and appreciation for spring.

The current work by Tang captures such a moment in a horizontal composition with distinct contrast of the white space and the painted space. In the painting, the pot is explained by few powerful, hard brushing of weak ink, dotted with a few new blossoms and branches. Other objects such as daffodils, bamboos, Buddha's hand, lychees, persimmon and lily, are all neatly present in the painting. The roly-poly occupies the corner, displaying endless liveliness, whereas the text expresses the hopeful aspirations for the new year.

FENG ZIKAI *Resting Under Pine*
 ink and colour on paper, hanging scroll 58 x 31cm (22 7/8 x 12 1/4in.)
 Est. HK\$ 150,000 – 200,000/ US\$ 19,400 – 25,800

Feng is an 'experiencer', observer, and recorder of life. Through painting of the unnoticeable trivial tidbits of life, the artist expresses his love and care for mankind.

The title of the work originates from Qing Dynasty poet Guo Lin. Whereas the original poem describes the discovery of a breathtakingly paradisiac landscape, the current work bearing a line of the poem is a representation of its natural scenery. The artist's mastery of line can be powerfully unconstrained and direct, whilst also simplistic and blunt, delineating a tranquil and secluded atmosphere.



FENG ZIKAI *Home by the River*
 ink and colour on paper, hanging scroll 68 x 33.5cm (26 3/4 x 13 1/4in.)

Est. HK\$ 180,000 – 220,000/ US\$ 23,200 – 28,400

The current work perfectly depicts the idyllic way of living in ancient China. The artist's coherent use of pastoral imageries, such as the village, the setting sun, the river, the pine, the old mansion, and the bird, constructs a sense of placidity, optimism and humbleness of life, accenting the harmonic coexistence of man and nature.



ZHAO SHAO'AN
Mandarin Ducks
1980

Ink and colour on paper, framed
178 x 95cm (70 x 37 3/8in.)
Est. HK\$ 800,000 – 1,000,000/
US\$ 103,000 – 130,000



QI BAISHI
Bodhisattva

ink and colour on paper, hanging scroll
77 x 34cm (30 3/8 x 13 3/8in.)
Est. HK\$ 1,000,000 – 1,200,000/
US\$ 130,000 – 155,000



LU YANSHAO
Sailing in Autumn Scenery
1980

ink and colour on paper, hanging scroll
83 x 37cm (32 5/8 x 14 1/2in.)
Est. HK\$ 350,000 – 400,000/
US\$ 45,200 – 52,000



CHENG SHIFA
Ethnic Dance
1977

ink and colour on paper, hanging scroll
68 x 45cm (26 3/4 x 17 3/4in.)
Est. HK\$ 500,000 – 600,000/
US\$ 65,000 – 78,000



XIE ZHILIU
Stream Along the Verdant Mountain
1978

ink and colour on paper, hanging scroll
135 x 60cm (53 1/8 x 23 5/8in.)
Est. HK\$ 680,000 – 800,000/
88,000 – 103,000

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

Press releases and hi-res images can be downloaded via:

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Notes to Editors
 Tiancheng International Autumn Auctions 2013 Calendar

Category	Auction Date	Auction Time	Preview Date	Preview Time	Venue
Fine Chinese Paintings	25Nov (Mon)	3pm	22-24Nov	10am to 6pm	Tiancheng International's Office Headquarters 30/F Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong
Modern and Contemporary Art	25Nov (Mon)	4pm	22-24Nov		
Jewellery and Jadeite	8Dec (Sun)	3pm	22-28Nov 5-7Dec		

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.

For more details about Tiancheng International Autumn Auctions 2013

Website: www.tianchengauction.com  : www.facebook.com/tianchenginternational  : weibo.com/tianchengintl