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TIANCHENG INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS A VIBRANT ENCOUNTER — Art by Hiro Yamagata

Exhibition Dates: 24 – 28 May

(Alongside the Preview of Tiancheng International Jewellery and Jadeite Spring Auction 2019)



In Early Spring of Fuji, Acrylic on canvas, 2018, 46 x 61 cm

HONG KONG, 9 May 2019

Tiancheng International is pleased to present “**A Vibrant Encounter — Art by Hiro Yamagata**” from 24 to 28 May, concurrently with the Preview of the Jewellery and Jadeite Spring Auction. The exhibition will showcase 15 masterpieces by Hiro Yamagata, all available for immediate purchase. The works of the famous Japanese-American artist Hiro Yamagata are characterised by the use of vivid colours. What sets Yamagata’s works apart are his technical mastery and expressive powers. With a palette of over 200 vibrant colours, Yamagata creates a dazzling world brimming with brilliant hues and tones. Apart from silk screen prints on a variety of subjects such as flowers and worlds with miniature figures, the artist’s original paintings will also be exhibited. Yamagata’s acrylic works are extremely rare and hence this is an excellent opportunity for collectors.

Wang Jie, Managing Director of Tiancheng International, remarks, “Tiancheng International is delighted to hold Hiro Yamagata’s first solo exhibition in Hong Kong and to introduce this influential artist across Japan, Europe and America to Asian collectors. We have selected his finest pieces from different periods in order to guide viewers through Yamagata’s universe of radiant colours and explore the virtuoso’s creative process.”

HIGHLIGHTS

In Early Spring of Fuji

Acrylic on canvas

2018

46 x 61 cm

Having spent most of his life in the West, Yamagata's artworks demonstrate strong European and American influences. However, in recent years, his interest has turned to his motherland, Japan, in what can be seen as his spiritual homecoming. *In Early Spring of Fuji* is a work that masterfully fuses Mount Fuji, dreamy miniature figures, and the artist's unique "Yamagata Blue". Featuring his signature brilliant colours, the painting creates a compelling juxtaposition of a fantasy world in a realistic setting, presenting a rich visual feast to viewers.



Floating Orchid

Silk screen print

2001

50 x 63 cm

The *Flower* series is no doubt one of the highlights of Yamagata's artistic career. Having worked in Hawaii, indigenous plants such as hibiscus and floating orchids have all made their way into Yamagata's oeuvre. In *Floating Orchid*, the artist captures brilliantly the transience of sunlight on the vibrant petals with his adept use of colours, conveying the energy and vitality of nature.

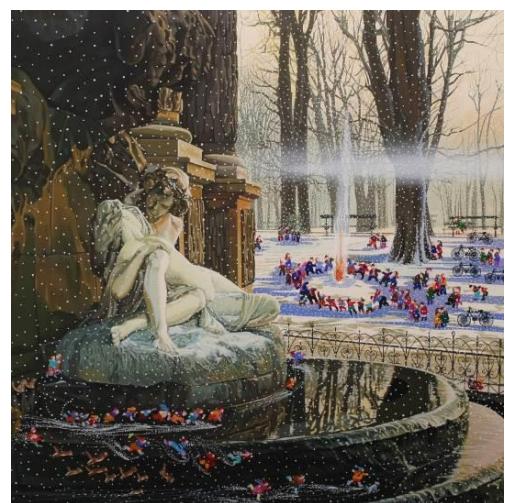
Snow Festival of Children

Silk screen print

1998

63 x 63 cm

Between 1972 and 1978, Yamagata based himself in Paris and travelled around Europe — an experience that provided inspiration for his art. At that time, Yamagata found his own niche interest — the joyous miniature figures. In this work, the sculpture beside the pond seems to be awakened by the laughter of children playing in the park. Adorning the entire pictorial space are gentle snowflakes that encapsulate the festive spirit.



Forest Butterfly

Silk screen print

2007

29 x 38 cm

Forest Butterfly is one of the few works in which Yamagata adopts green as the principal colour. The straightforward composition grants the natural landscape a sense of pure tranquillity. In his depiction of the cheerful miniature figures, not only does Yamagata stress that each of us has the responsibility to conserve the sun, air, water and the environment, he also conveys his hope that future generations will continue to prosper on earth.



Sky Festival

Silk screen print

1995

84 x 63 cm

The 1980s and 1990s were a period of economic prosperity and scientific advancement, during which lives were stable, and everyone looked eagerly towards the future. Here Yamagata conveys this air of optimism by putting together a spectacle of airships, balloons and fairgrounds — a whole world under the bright sun with tiny figures soaring freely in the vast, clear sky. Filling the background with his signature “Yamagata Blue”, together with a kaleidoscope of different colours, the artist expresses peace and serenity through his detailed depiction of the exuberant scene.

ABOUT HIRO YAMAGATA



Born in 1948 in the Japanese city of Maibara in Shiga Prefecture, Hiro Yamagata began Japanese painting lessons at high school. After moving to Los Angeles in 1978, he started producing silk screen prints. Revered across Europe, America, and Japan, his works are in some of the most prestigious collections in the world, such as Martin Lawrence Galleries and Guggenheim Museums, and are highly sought after by collectors internationally. In 1986, Yamagata was commissioned by the US government to paint a work commemorating the centenary of the Statue of Liberty; and in 1988, he designed posters for the United States Olympic Committee. In addition to painting an official portrait of President Ronald Reagan, he was invited to produce works for Australian National Day, the centenary of the Eiffel Tower, and the bicentenary of the White House, among many others. In 1986,

Yamagata began to paint on vintage Mercedes Benz motorcars from the 1950s with numerous primary colours and published the *Earthly Paradise* series, which caused a sensation in the art world.

Press releases and high-resolution images can be downloaded via:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

A Vibrant Encounter — Art by Hiro Yamagata	
Date	24 to 28 May 2019 (Fri – Tue) (Alongside the Preview of Tiancheng International Jewellery and Jadeite Spring Auction 2019)
Time	10am to 6pm
Venue	Tiancheng International 30/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

ABOUT TIANCHENG INTERNATIONAL

Founded in January 2011, Tiancheng International is an auction house led by a visionary management group and an illustrious team of experts with extensive experience in the international auction business. With a solid understanding of the cultural requirements of clients and a broad vision of 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 Taiwan.



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