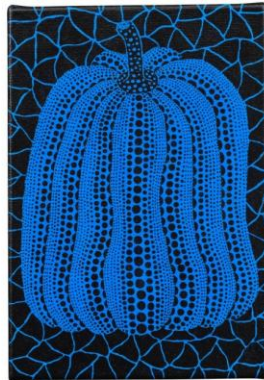


PHILLIPS

PRESS RELEASE

PHILLIPS PRESENTS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART HONG KONG SALE ON 30 SEPTEMBER



HONG KONG – 21 September 2026 – Phillips is pleased to present the full catalogue for its upcoming [Modern & Contemporary Art Evening Sale](#) and [Modern & Contemporary Art Sale](#) in Hong Kong. Both auctions will take place on 30 September at the company's Asia headquarters in the West Kowloon Cultural District. Complementing the live auctions, [Modern & Contemporary Art: Online Auction, Hong Kong](#) will be open for bidding from 23 September – 2 October.

As [previously announced](#), the Modern & Contemporary Art Evening Sale, taking place at 4:30pm HKT, will feature 20 exceptional lots, bringing together works of outstanding quality, rarity, and provenance by some of the most influential artists of the modern and contemporary eras. The sale is led by three extraordinary paintings that mark pivotal moments in the careers of Gerhard Richter, Zao Wou-Ki, and Zeng Fanzhi.

The Modern & Contemporary Art Sale, taking place at 6pm HKT, features 119 lots and presents a dynamic selection of important paintings, distinguished private collections, and works by both established and emerging artists. Highlights include a group of iconic paintings by Yayoi Kusama, a significant presentation of Chinese contemporary art spanning over three decades, and notable works by leading Asian artists from *The Inquiring Eye: Property from a Distinguished Collection, Southeast Asia*, assembled over five decades by a discerning collector. The sale is further enriched by a carefully curated selection of Western art, featuring works by post-war masters, Pablo Picasso's celebrated Madoura ceramics, and a group of fashion illustrations by Andy Warhol from an important private collection.

Rebecca Hu, Head of Sale, Modern & Contemporary Art, Phillips Hong Kong, said: “The strength of this season’s auction lies in its breadth and quality. Bringing together outstanding works from across Asia, alongside exceptional examples by celebrated Western Modern masters, the sale traces a rich narrative of artistic innovation across cultures and generations. Whether through the visionary worlds of Yayoi Kusama and Marc Chagall, the powerful evolution of Chinese Contemporary Art, or the enduring appeal of Southeast Asia’s most significant modern artists, each work has been selected for its significance, rarity, and ability to resonate with today’s global collectors.”

JAPANESE POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY

This season’s Hong Kong sales present a superb selection of signature works by Japan’s most celebrated artists, including a group of iconic paintings by Yayoi Kusama, whose extraordinary legacy continues to shape the global contemporary art landscape. At the forefront is the striking blue *Pumpkin*, a powerful embodiment of one of Kusama’s most enduring and deeply personal motifs. Inspired by childhood memories and the resilience forged during wartime Japan, the pumpkin became both a source of comfort and a profound symbol of self-identity for the artist. Rendered through the intricate interplay of her hallmark polka dots and infinity nets, the work brings together some of Kusama’s most recognisable visual languages, transforming the humble pumpkin into a mesmerizing meditation on repetition, infinity, and the dissolution of boundaries between the self and the universe.

Kazuo Shiraga's *Wiper 8A* exemplifies the dynamic energy and innovative spirit that made him one of the most influential figures of Japan's postwar Gutai movement. Created during a pivotal period in the artist's career, the work reflects his early experimentation with his distinctive "squeezing painting" technique, in which he uses wooden tools to manipulate paint into sweeping, expressive forms. Vibrant crimson gestures surge across a luminous gold background, interwoven with white, blue, green, and black lines, creating a powerful sense of movement.

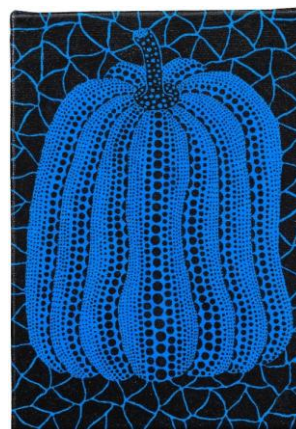


Kazuo Shiraga

Wiper 8A, 1967

oil on canvas, 53 x 65.2 cm.

Estimate: HK\$2,000,000–4,000,000/ US\$256,000–513,000



Yayoi Kusama

Pumpkin, 1990

acrylic on canvas, 22.7 x 15.6 cm.

Estimate: HK\$2,000,000–3,500,000/ US\$256,000–449,000

WESTERN MODERN MASTERS

The sale also presents a distinguished group of works by leading figures of Western Modern art, including Marc Chagall, Bernard Buffet, and Pablo Picasso. Together, these works highlight the enduring international appeal of some of the 20th century’s most celebrated artistic voices.

A compelling work by Bernard Buffet, *La Baume II* exemplifies the artist's instantly recognisable visual language, characterized by sharp linearity, expressive intensity, and a distinctive postwar sensibility. One of the most

prominent European painters of his generation, Buffet developed a singular style that remains highly sought after by collectors worldwide.

Also featured is a work by Marc Chagall, whose poetic imagery and dreamlike compositions occupy a unique place within 20th century art. Blending memory, fantasy, and emotion, Chagall's paintings transcend cultural boundaries, offering a timeless vision of love, nostalgia, and imagination.

Further strengthening the sale's Western Modern offering is a notable group of ceramics by Pablo Picasso, created during his celebrated collaboration with the Madoura pottery in Vallauris, France. Demonstrating the same spirit of invention that defined his paintings and sculptures, these works transform everyday vessels into imaginative and highly expressive art objects. Highlights include *Le Barbu* (1953), in which Picasso ingeniously reimagines a pitcher as a bearded figure, exemplifying his ability to blur the boundaries among function, sculpture, and portraiture while continually expanding the creative possibilities of the ceramic medium.



Bernard Buffet
La Baume II, 1987
oil on canvas, 89 x 130 cm.
Estimate: HK\$1,400,000–1,800,000/
US\$179,000–231,000



Marc Chagall
Bouquet sur fond orange, 1975
oil and tempera on canvas laid on board,
33 x 24 cm.
Estimate: HK\$1,600,000–2,400,000/
US\$205,000–308,000



Pablo Picasso
Le Barbu (Alain Ramié 217), 1953
white earthenware ceramic pitcher, painted
in colors and partially glazed,
32 x 19 x 32.5 cm.
Estimate: HK\$100,000–160,000/
US\$12,800–20,500

CHINESE CONTEMPORARY

In addition to the previously announced Evening Sale highlight, Zeng Fanzhi's [*Mask Series No. 4*](#), this season's auctions offer a compelling survey of Chinese contemporary art spanning more than three decades. The Chinese contemporary art section of the Modern & Contemporary Art Sale is led by Jia Aili's *Untitled* (2016), complemented by a significant presentation of works from Chen Yifei's celebrated *Water Village* series and an early work by Huang Yuxing, exhibited in the artist's first-ever solo exhibition. The sale further brings together outstanding works by a distinguished group of leading Chinese contemporary artists, including Chen Ke, Wang Xiyao, Zhang Yingnan, Cui Jie, He Xiangyu, Zhang Yuewei, and Wang Keping, underscoring the breadth and vitality of contemporary artistic practice in China today.

Among the first generation of post-1970s Chinese painters to join the roster of internationally renowned blue-chip galleries, Jia Aili has developed a distinctive visual language shaped by the industrial landscapes and ruins of Northeast China. Created in 2016, *Untitled* is a compelling example of the artist's mature practice. A bolt of lightning cuts through a near-black sky, illuminating withered trees, a desolate landscape, and a solitary circular form at the edge of the canvas. Suggestively, both an abandoned banquet table and an enigmatic altar heighten the work's sense of mystery and drama. By this period, Jia had embraced a more abstract and theatrical mode of expression, with human presence receding as celestial forces take centre stage in a vast, otherworldly landscape.

This season's sale also features important works from Chen Yifei's celebrated *Water Village* series, developed following the artist's 1982 sketching trip to the ancient town of Zhouzhuang. Distinct from both revolutionary historical painting and the dominant artistic currents of the West, the series drew on Chen's personal memories and lived experience. In *Sunset, On The River (Suzhou)*, he combines the realist techniques of Western oil painting with the poetic sensibility of traditional Chinese aesthetics, capturing the mist-laden waterways of Jiangnan with remarkable lyricism. Eschewing grand historical narratives, the work transforms a familiar homeland landscape into a meditation on memory, time, and belonging, expressed through a visual language that resonates across cultures.

Chen Ke's iconic early motif of the wide-eyed young girl, her alter ego "Little K," emerged from the anxiety and solitude she experienced after arriving in Beijing. Created in 2005, *Be with you, will not feel lonely forever No. 4* is among the most poignant works from this celebrated series. Set against a vast dusk landscape, two small figures lean gently toward one another on the horizon, their quiet companionship offering a powerful counterpoint to the immensity of the world around them. As the title suggests, the work is a tender meditation on friendship, comfort, and belonging.



Jia Aili
Untitled, 2016
 oil on canvas, 132 x 113 cm.
 Estimate: HK\$1,000,000–
 2,000,000/US\$128,000–256,000



Chen Yifei
Sunset, On The River (Suzhou), circa 1984
 oil on canvas, 76.2 x 106.7 cm.
 Estimate: HK\$600,000–800,000/
 US\$76,900–103,000



Chen Ke
*Be with you, will not feel lonely forever
 No. 4*, 2005
 oil on canvas, 160 x 160 cm.
 Estimate: HK\$600,000–
 800,000/US\$76,900–103,000

THE INQUIRING EYE: PROPERTY FROM A DISTINGUISHED COLLECTION, SOUTHEAST ASIA

Phillips is honoured to present a group of exceptional works assembled over five decades by a discerning Southeast Asian art connoisseur. Offered across the house's Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 seasons in Hong Kong, the collection reflects a deeply personal journey shaped by intellectual curiosity, rigorous research, and an unwavering commitment to quality. At the collection's core is a vibrant cross-cultural dialogue, capturing the pivotal moment where the era of European expatriate artists in Bali coincided with the rise of pioneering Asian masters returning from elite Western academies. Spanning luminous Balinese depictions, Nanyang modernism, and radical post-war and contemporary expressions, the collection stands as a testament to a longstanding pursuit of continuous discovery, graciously passing the torch to a new generation of art enthusiasts.

In parallel with his passion for Indonesian masters such as [Affandi](#) and [Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur de Merprès](#) featured in the Evening Sale, the collector also sought out works by the pioneering Nanyang artists, whose practices forged a distinctive synthesis of Chinese artistic traditions and Western modernism. A highlight of the collection is *Snack Stall in Bali* by Lee Man Fong, one of the most influential figures in 20th-century Indonesian art. Celebrated for his refined fusion of Chinese literati aesthetics and Western painterly techniques, Lee developed a lyrical visual language that played a pivotal role in shaping modern Indonesian art. Exemplifying the elegance and technical mastery for which he is renowned, *Snack Stall in Bali* captures the quiet poetry of everyday life through a composition marked by harmony, restraint, and remarkable sensitivity.

Complementing these highlights is Cheong Soo Pieng's *The Red Tone* (1962), a striking example from one of Singapore's most revered modern artists. Painted during a pivotal period in the artist's career, the work demonstrates Cheong's innovative approach to form, colour, and composition, reflecting the transnational influences that shaped the development of the Nanyang artistic movement. Richly nuanced and visually dynamic, the painting embodies the spirit of experimentation that established him as a defining figure in Southeast Asian modernism.



Lee Man Fong
Snack Stall in Bali, 1958
 oil on Masonite, 60 x 80 cm.
 Estimate: HK\$600,000–800,000/
 US\$76,900–103,000



Cheong Soo Pieng
The Red Tone, 1962
 oil on canvas, 71 x 91.5 cm.
 Estimate: HK\$400,000–600,000/
 US\$51,300–76,900

###

[Modern & Contemporary Art Sale](#): 6pm HKT, 30 September

Public Viewing: 21-30 September, 11am-7pm HKT

Location: Phillips Asia Headquarters, GF, WKCD Tower, West Kowloon Cultural District, No. 8 Austin Road West, Kowloon, Hong Kong

ABOUT PHILLIPS

Phillips: where the world's curious and bold connect with the art, design, and luxury that inspires them. As a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century works, Phillips offers dedicated expertise in the areas of Modern and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewels. Auctions and exhibitions are primarily held in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, with representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia. Phillips offers a regular selection of live and online auctions, along with items available for immediate purchase. Phillips also offers a range of services and advice on all aspects of collecting, including private sales and assistance with appraisals, valuations, and financial planning. Visit [phillips.com](https://www.phillips.com) for further information.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium; prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

PRESS CONTACTS:

HONG KONG – Ingrid Hsu, Head of PR and Corporate Communications, Asia

ingridhsu@phillips.com

PHILLIPS NEW YORK – 432 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

PHILLIPS LONDON – 30 Berkeley Square, London, W1J 6EX

PHILLIPS HONG KONG – G/F, WKCD Tower, West Kowloon Cultural District, No. 8 Austin Road, West Kowloon

PHILLIPS GENEVA - Rue de la Confédération, 7 Geneva 1204

FOLLOW US ON:



WeChat