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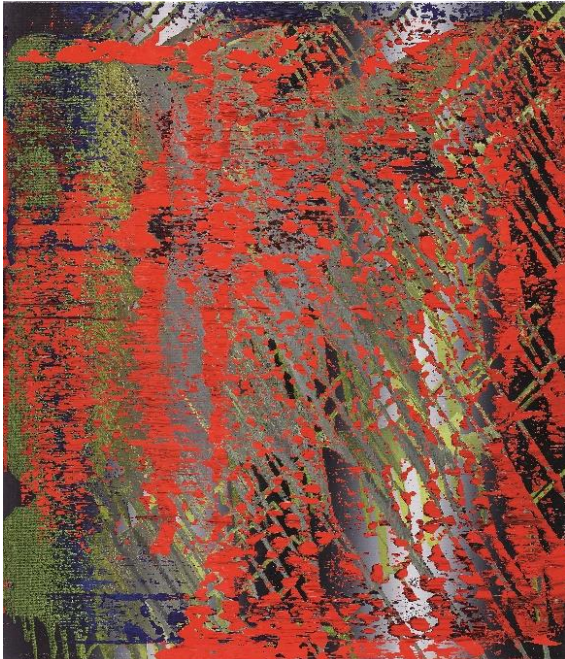
POLY AUCTION  
保利拍賣

PRESS RELEASE

## Phillips in Association with Poly Auction Unveils Further Highlights from 20th Century & Contemporary Art & Design Fall Sales

Evening Sale: 3 December 2020 | Day Sale: 4 December 2020

Location: JW Marriott, Hong Kong



**Gerhard Richter**  
*Abstraktes Bild (682-4)*, 1988  
oil on canvas, 72.5 x 62.2 cm  
Estimate: HK\$20,000,000 – 30,000,000



**Chu Teh-Chun**  
*Composition No.65*, 1960  
oil on canvas, 145.4x89.2 cm  
Estimate: 15,000,000 – 20,000,000

HONG KONG – 10 November 2020 – Phillips in association with Poly Auction unveils additional highlights ahead of the Hong Kong Fall Auctions of 20th Century & Contemporary Art & Design, following the [earlier announcement](#) of *Hothouse Doll*, an historically important work by Yoshitomo Nara which appeared as the cover of the artist's most comprehensive catalogue raisonné. The landmark joint sales, scheduled for 3 and 4 December in Hong Kong, bring together a rich diversity of Western and Asian artists including highly sought-after names such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Gerhard Richter, Chu Teh-Chun, Zao Wou-Ki, Yayoi Kusama, Christine Ay Tjoe, and Matthew Wong, as well as auction debuts in Asia for works by younger stars including Lucas Arruda, Emily Mae Smith, Salman Toor, Titus Kaphar and Derek Fordjour. The live auctions will be streamed to bidders worldwide on [Phillips.com](#) and the [Phillips app](#), as well as the Poly Auction app and WeChat Mini Program.

**Jonathan Crockett, Chairman, Asia, Phillips**, said: "This historic partnership with Poly Auction marks the latest initiative in Phillips' commitment to a continued long-term growth story in Asia. We are delighted to announce a distinguished line-up of exceptional works by some of the most sought after Western and Asian artists – from Gerhard Richter and Jean-Michel Basquiat to Yoshitomo Nara and Chu Teh-Chun. We continue to celebrate and showcase artists of the moment, and are excited to mark the auction debut in Asia for emerging names such as Emily Mae Smith, Titus Kaphar and Salman Toor. These auctions mark a notable stage in our trajectory of growth

and underscores Phillips' intentions to expand our presence further in the important Asia market. We look forward to welcoming the international collecting community to these landmark auctions this December."

**Alex Chang, Managing Director of Poly Auction (Hong Kong)**, says: "Poly Auction is a leading auction house in China, and Phillips is an auction house with a history of more than 220 years, and has rich experience in the field of Western art. Through the past 9 years, Poly Hong Kong has been pursuing diverse auction categories and innovative themes and had set new records every year, with a grand total of nearly HKD 1.7 billion achieved in 2019. The Modern and Contemporary Art department has made outstanding achievements as well, and currently holds world auction records for Zao Wou-Ki's "Oracle" period, Wu Guanzhong's oil paintings and Yoshitomo Nara's installation works. This joint Fall Sales will combine our strengths and resources to offer collectors something new and meet the demands of an evolving art market. An array of modern and contemporary masterpieces from across the world will gather in Hong Kong this coming December, and we look forward to bringing new vitality into the market."

### Post-War Abstract Masters

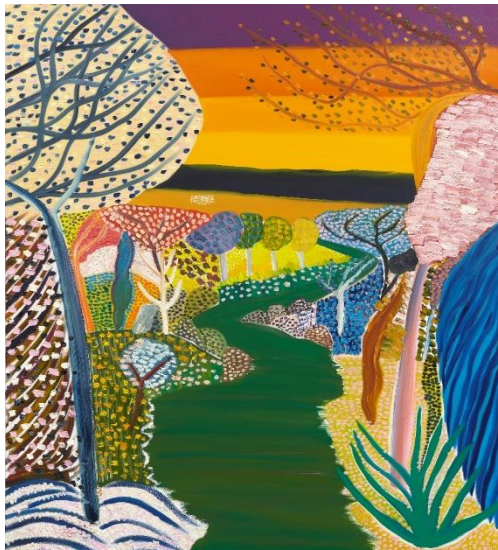
The Evening Sale presents magnificent works by abstract masters, Gerhard Richter, Chu Teh-Chun and Zao Wou-Ki. Originating from the heart of Richter's inquiry into the transcendence of painterly abstraction, which began in the 1970s, *Abstraktes Bild (682-4)* from 1988 (illustrated page 1) is a stunning example from the artist's celebrated series. The same year that the present work was conceived, Richter held seminal shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago and the Contemporary Art Gallery in Tokyo. This is a pristine and condensed version of the artist's celebrated series, its dramatic trails of explosive red, luminous greens and darker blues and greys create a strikingly textured and iridescent image. Richter uses contrasting colours to build the visual illusion that the bright red belongs to the foreground, while the colder blues and greys dwell in the back.

Painted in 1960, a year which is considered to be the apex of Chu Teh-Chun's career when he transformed his oeuvre from the representational to the abstract, *Composition No.65* (illustrated page 1) is representative of the artist's early abstraction period. The present work epitomises a vertical format which emphasises the artist's references to scroll-mounted Chinese classical landscape paintings. With canvas as a basis and oil as his medium, Chu perfectly translates a cornerstone of Chinese tradition using the most Western form of expression, advancing a quest for the renewal of Chinese art that characterises the golden decade of the 1960s.

### Fallen Stars



**Jean-Michel Basquiat**  
*Ancient Scientist*, 1984  
acylic, oilstick and Xerox paper collage on canvas, 168 x 153.7 cm  
Estimate: HK\$50,000,000 – 70,000,000



**Matthew Wong**  
*River at Dusk*, 2018  
oil on canvas, 203.2 x 178 cm  
Estimate: HK\$7,000,000 – 10,000,000

Also highlighting the Evening Sale are works by the late artists Jean-Michel Basquiat and Matthew Wong, two of the contemporary art world's fallen stars, both of whom left a legacy of complex and deeply personal artworks. *Ancient Scientist* was created by Basquiat in 1984, at a time in which the 24-year-old artist had solo museum shows and his art was sought after by collectors and renowned galleries worldwide. The present work draws inspiration

from Old Master paintings of famed figures and demonstrates Basquiat's fascination with Picasso, which is reminiscent of the latter's famed *Masks*. Xerox papers at the bottom of the work featuring flowers speaks to the titular scientist and the artist's interest in the reproduction technique as well as anatomical drawings. It is a powerful testament to the artist's unique ability to create a body of heavily textured work with layers of meanings.

Matthew Wong's dreamlike landscapes and still lifes have captivated audiences worldwide. His colourful paintings are prisms of art history - from Chinese literati painting to the expressive brushwork of Vincent van Gogh and Chaim Soutine, the Nabis and Henri Matisse's fervor for color to the gestural approach of the Abstract Expressionists, numerous influences are palpable in his vibrant vignettes. *River at Dusk* is an enthralling work depicting a romantic scene of a river at dusk lined with lush foliage bathed in golden light. A large two metre composition executed a year before the artist's passing, the work offers an immersive experience into the contemplative wonderlands that exist in the artist's imagination.

### Prominent Japanese Contemporary Art

Besides Yoshitomo Nara's *Hothouse Doll*, which was previously announced, this season's Evening Sale will feature another important work by the artist. Standing at over three meters tall, *Untitled* is currently the largest artwork by the artist to appear at auction. This striking work features the artist's signature motif of the wide-eyed child, captivating the audience with glowing cosmic eyes rising out of a pool of pastel ripples. *Untitled* is the culmination of years of perfecting the subject of the lone figure, rendered here in exquisite detail through the artist's manipulation of both colour and medium. While retaining the unique texture and grain of wood boards, Nara creates a graphic effect entirely distinct from other wood board creations in both colour usage and the sense of space produced by lines.

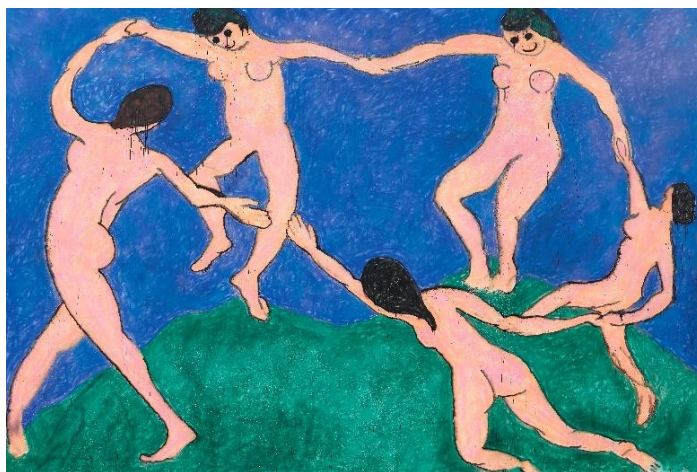


**Yoshitomo Nara**  
*Untitled*, 2007  
 acrylic on wood, in artist's frame; work 286 x 241 cm,  
 with frame 310x 265 cm  
 Estimate: HK\$24,000,000 – 36,000,000

Yayoi Kusama's lifelong fascination with the natural world began during her childhood when she spent time in the seed-harvesting field of her family's plant nursery. *Fruits [EPSOB]*, 2011, is a signature still life painting of fruits obsessively filled in with the artist's most iconic motifs: her infinity net pattern, polka dots and lines. MADSAKI is perhaps best known for his *Wannabe* series, in which he reinterprets the Old Masters using his trademark spray paint technique. If one work should represent Matisse, it would be the famous *Dance* work currently housed in New York's MoMA. In *DANCE 2*, MADSAKI pays homage to the French painter in retaining the original composition and movement while preserving his characteristic style.



**Yayoi Kusama**  
*Fruits [EPSOB]*, 2011  
 acrylic on canvas, 112x145.5 cm  
 Estimate: HK\$7,000,000 – 12,000,000



**MADSAKI**  
*DANCE 2*, 2017  
 acrylic paint, aerosol on canvas, 259.7 x 390.1cm  
 Estimate: HK\$2,000,000 – 3,000,000

## Asian Female Abstract

*INFINITY-NETS (QRTWE)* is an exceptional example from Yayoi Kusama's celebrated oeuvre that continues the legacy of her most iconic *Infinity Nets* series, which the artist has developed and enriched for more than half a century, cementing her place as an iconic figure at the centre of contemporary art. The present work was first unveiled at the artist's two-part exhibition at Victoria Miro in London in 2007. The work recalls the artist's earliest white net paintings that were presented at the Brata Gallery in New York and propelled her to artistic stardom.

Executed in 2013, *When Black and Red Could Hardly be a Circle* showcases Christine Ay Tjoe's inimitable style, with an innate understanding of the relationship between line, space and colour. 2013 was a seminal year for the artist, when Ay Tjoe's style evolved definitively from figuration to abstraction. Some of her best works were created that year, including the holder of the artist's world auction record *Small Flies and Other Wings* which sold at Phillips in 2017. Whilst *When Black and Red Could Hardly be a Circle* retains some vestiges of figurative language with the same fly-like creatures that feature in *Small Flies and Other Wings*, in the present work Ay Tjoe places greater emphasis on expressing pure, brute emotion in the blunt, whirling streaks of colour.



**Christine Ay Tjoe**  
*When Black and Red Could Hardly be a Circle*, 2013  
oil on canvas, 202 x 173 cm  
Estimate: HK\$4,000,000 — 6,000,000



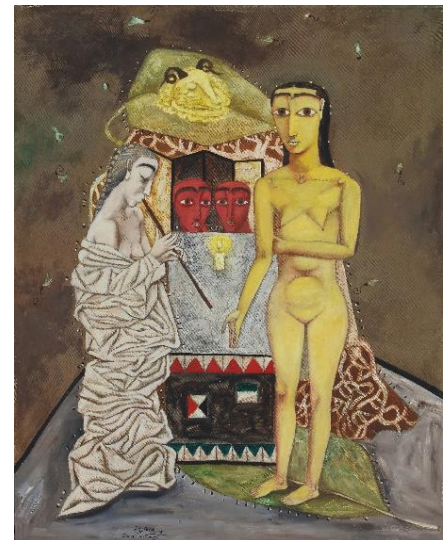
**Yayoi Kusama**  
*INFINITY-NETS (QRTWE)*, 2007  
acrylic on canvas, 194x259 cm  
Estimate: HK\$15,000,000 – 20,000,000

## Chinese Contemporary Art

An array of Chinese Contemporary artworks by the most reputable Chinese artists including Zhang Xiaogang, Liu Ye, Liu Wei, Yue Minjun, Fang Lijun, Zhou Chunya and Huang Yuxing will be offered across the Evening and Day Sales. Led by Zhang Xiaogang's *Fairy Tale*, an iconic work among the artist's early paintings from his *Demon* period. Even though the tone of the painting is still very much filled with the sense of mystery and foreordination of the *Demon* series, the dreamy backdrop, large areas of bright colors, and religious attributes exhibited by the figures have shed the sorrow and struggles of the earlier *Demon* series.

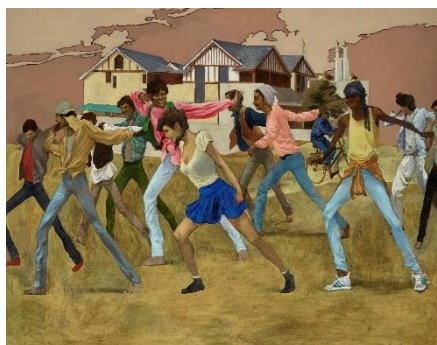
## Today's Emerging Talent

Despite being only 37 years old, Lucas Arruda is among Brazil's globally sought-after fresh generation of artists, proven by the widespread institution and critical recognition for his exquisite landscapes and seascapes. One of the largest sized pieces to appear at auction, *Untitled*, from the artist's *Deserto-Modelo* series, beckons the viewer to come closer, inviting them to peer into the meticulously applied brushstrokes that bring into form a complex rendition of a horizon line at the cusp of dawn or dusk. With fewer than ten *Deserto-Modelo* paintings offered in the auction market before, *Untitled* is a superb example from an artist rare at auction.



**Zhang Xiaogang**  
*Fairy Tale*, 1985  
oil on canvas, 91 x 73 cm  
Estimate: HK\$ 6,500,000-8,500,000

Coming to auction for the first time in Asia and poised to make a splash in this season's 20th Century & Contemporary Art sales are Salman Toor, Emily Mae Smith and Titus Kaphar. Pakistani-born artist Salman Toor is currently the subject of significant critical and institutional praise – most notably through his first ever solo exhibition which is slated to take place at the Whitney Museum of Art, New York from this month. Currently the subject of significant commercial and critical attention, Emily Mae Smith's surreal 2018 painting *Alien Shores* recently set a world auction record in Phillips' October London Evening Sale. Marking her Asia auction debut is *Dust*, which portrays an anthropomorphic broomstick figure – the artist's signature avatar.



**Salman Toor**  
*Group Dance*, 2012  
oil on linen, 119x152 cm  
Estimate: HK\$380,000-480,000



**Emily Mae Smith**  
*Dust*, 2019  
oil on linen, 27.9x35.5cm  
Estimate: HK\$200,000-300,000



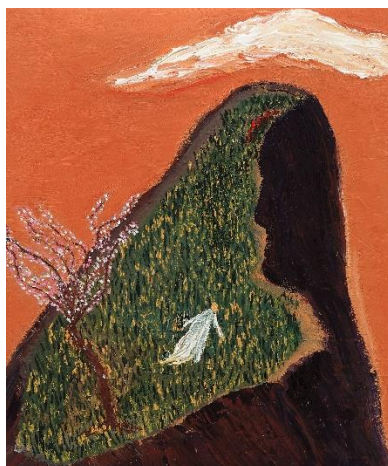
**Lucas Arruda**  
*Untitled*, 2013  
oil on canvas, 50x50 cm  
Estimate: HK\$1,500,000 — 2,500,000

## Highlights from the 20th Century & Contemporary Art & Design Day Sale

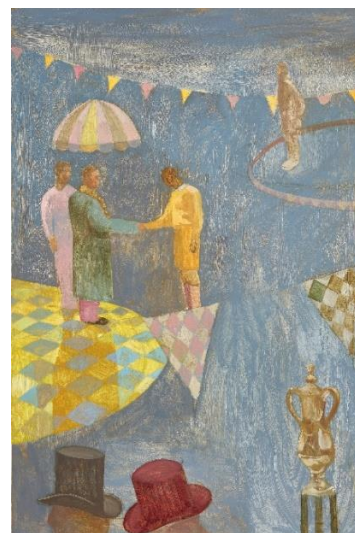
The Day Sale on 4 December includes a broad spectrum of well-known contemporary artists such as Liu Ye, Genieve Figgis, Matthew Wong and Mr. Leading the Day Sale is Liu Ye's *Untitled (Self-Portrait)*, executed in 1997 after the artist's return from Berlin to China, and depicts a chubby toddler with a roundish head rendered in cartoonish style. Another newcomer to come to auction in Asia this season is Derek Fordjour, a Tennessee-born artist of Ghanaian heritage has become well known for his multidisciplinary practice exploring race, violence, displacement and inequality in American society. Also included in the Day Sale this fall is a distinguished selection of Danish, Italian and Japanese Design pieces. Meanwhile, Hong Kong-based award-winning designer, brand consultant and artist [Alan Chan](#) will be given a dedicated area at the Hong Kong pre-sale exhibition, to curate a selection of design items and art pieces for "Pantone 7603C by Alan Chan". Besides being selected twice for Shanghai Biennale and Hong Kong Contemporary Art Award respectively, Mr. Chan is also the first Hong Kong designer ever to be invited to hold a solo exhibition at the Shanghai Art Museum in 2007 and the prestigious Japanese graphic design gallery – Ginza Graphic Gallery in Tokyo in 2002. His works have been collected by art institutions and private collectors worldwide.



**Liu Ye**  
*Untitled (Self-Portrait)*, 1997  
oil and acrylic on canvas, 120x140cm  
Estimate: HK\$5,000,000-7,000,000



**Matthew Wong**  
*One Fine Day*, 2017  
acrylic on canvas, 60.9x50.8 cm  
Estimate: HK\$500,000-700,000



**Derek Fordjour**  
*Untitled*, 2015  
oil and acrylic on wood panel  
157.7 x 101.3 cm  
Estimate: HK\$400,000 – 500,000

## **Phillips in Association with Poly 20th Century & Contemporary Art and Design Hong Kong Sales**

Evening Sale: 7pm, Thursday, 3 December | Day Sale: 11am, Friday, 4 December

Location: JW Marriott, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong

### **Touring Previews**

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>City</b>   |
|--|---|
| 6-7 November<br>11am to 6pm                          | <b>Beijing</b><br>The Time Museum, No.298 Gulou East Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing  |
| 12-15 November<br>(14-15 Public Viewing 11am to 6pm) | <b>Shanghai</b><br>Shanghai Art 21, booth E19<br>Shanghai Exhibition Center, No.1000 Yan'an Middle Road, Jing'an District, Shanghai |
| 17-18 November<br>11am to 6pm                        | <b>Shenzhen</b><br>Raffles Shenzhen T7, One Shenzhen Bay, 3008 Zhongxin Road, Nanshan District, Shenzhen                            |
| 19 November<br>11am to 6pm                           | <b>Taichung</b><br>Fong-Yi Art Gallery, B1, No. 110, Sec. 1, Wuquan W. Rd., West Dist., Taichung, Taiwan                            |
| 21-22 November<br>11am to 6pm                        | <b>Taipei</b><br>B1 Art Gallery, Bellavita, No.28, Songren Rd., Xinyi District, Taipei, Taiwan                                      |
| 28 November – 3 December<br>10am to 7pm              | <b>Hong Kong</b><br>JW Marriott Hotel, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong   |

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### **ABOUT POLY AUCTION**

Poly Auction is a professional art auction platform under Poly Culture Group, a Hong Kong listed and state-owned enterprise, which has maintained its leading position in Chinese art auctions around the globe. The company is committed to providing clients with top-notch services that comprise the industry chain in art dealing including auctions, private sales, valuation, and financial services. There are several subsidiaries under the housing of Poly Auction including Beijing Poly Auction, Poly Auction Hong Kong, Poly Auction Macau, Poly Auction Xiamen, and Poly Auction Shandong with a network all over Asia, Europe and the United States. Our team of experienced experts aim to provide excellency with their accumulated resources across the globe and professionalism in buying and selling of art. Visit [www.polypm.com.cn](http://www.polypm.com.cn) and [www.polyauction.com.hk](http://www.polyauction.com.hk) for further information.



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