

# PHILLIPS 富藝斯

MEDIA ALERT

**Phillips Asia to Present**

**Zhang Xiaogang's**

***Bloodline: Big Family, No. 11***

**On View at Phillips' Hong Kong Gallery 25 March – 2 April 2019**

**To be auctioned on 26 May in the 20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale at  
JW Marriott Hong Kong**



Zhang Xiaogang b. 1958  
*Bloodline: Big Family, No. 11*  
Painted in 1998  
Estimate on request

HONG KONG – 25 March 2019 – Phillips announces Chinese artist Zhang Xiaogang's masterwork, ***Bloodline: Big Family, No. 11***, as a highlight of the 20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale on 26 May 2019. The painting hails from the artist's most compelling body of works – the *Bloodline (1993 – 1999)* series – conceived during a period characterised by a deep identity crisis in China following the Tiananmen Square incident in 1989. This iconic series has come to embody the collective vision of socialist China and Zhang Xiaogang's own dissonant voice.

Isaure de Viel Castel, Head of Department, 20th Century & Contemporary Art Department, and Senior Director, said: "Phillips is pleased to present this painting from Zhang Xiaogang's most prominent *Bloodline* series. Coming from an important Private European Collection, this work was exhibited in the first solo show dedicated to the artist in Europe in 1999 at Galerie de France. Having remained in Europe ever since, we are delighted to have been entrusted with its sale and to present it for the first time in Asia."

Phillips has established itself as a leading platform for selling modern works alongside cutting-edge contemporary art, and with the ongoing interest in pursuing historically important works by preeminent Asian artists. Last spring, Phillips achieved a strong result with 100% sell-through rate for the collection of Nick Scheeres which includes important contemporary Chinese works by celebrated artists such as Zhang Xiaogang, Fang Lijun, Yue Minjun, as well as such modern masters as Richard Lin and Sanyu.

## Zhang Xiaogang

Relying on memory and inspired by family portraits from the Chinese Cultural Revolution, Zhang Xiaogang creates surreal, subtle artworks that explore the notion of identity in relation to the Chinese culture of collectivism. Using a muted, greyscale palette, Xiaogang repeatedly depicts a series of unnervingly similar figures, often dressed in identical Mao suits, to create an endless genealogy of imagined forebears and progenitors. Their somber, melancholy gazes are interrupted only by thin red bloodlines intimating familial links as well as occasional pale splotches of colour resembling birthmarks.

Xiaogang investigates how to express individual histories within the strict confines of a formula. His sitters, while appearing muted and compliant, are given physical exaggerations: oversized heads, tiny hands and long noses. These distortions imply stifled emotions and give a complex psychological dimension to the artist's work.

### Phillips Hong Kong Spring Sale 2019

23-28 May 2019 at JW Marriott, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong  
20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale: 26 May

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Phillips is a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century art and design. With dedicated expertise in the areas of 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewelry, Phillips offers professional services and advice on all aspects of collecting. Auctions and exhibitions are held at salerooms in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, while clients are further served through representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. Phillips also offers an online auction platform accessible anywhere in the world. In addition to providing selling and buying opportunities through auction, Phillips brokers private sales and offers assistance with appraisals, valuations, and other financial services. Visit [www.phillips.com](http://www.phillips.com) for further information.

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

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