

Bonhams

PRESS RELEASE

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BONHAMS ANNOUNCES THE MICHAEL GOEDHUIS: BRUSH AND BRONZE SALE IN MAY

[View Catalogue](#)



Left: Michael Goedhuis in his apartment. Right: *Old Cypress from the Forbidden City, 2007* by Liu Dan.
Estimate: £200,000-300,000

London - The Michael Goedhuis: Brush and Bronze sale will take place at Bonhams New Bond Street on Thursday 18 May 2023. It offers a selection of Chinese ink paintings by more than 20 key artists of the last four decades (Brush) and bronze sculptures and vessels produced from the Song dynasty (960-1279) to the Qing dynasty (1644-1911) (Bronze). **The xxx-lot sale is led by a magnificent work by the internationally renowned ink painter Liu Dan. *Old Cypress from the Forbidden City, 2007* has an estimate of £200,000 - 300,000.**

It was in 1975 that Michael Goedhuis left a successful career in investment banking to pursue his interest in art. Dealing initially in Persian, Mughal and Islamic art he later expanded his activities to cover India, Japan and China. Since the early 1990s he has concentrated on Chinese Modern and Contemporary art and has played a key role in throwing light on the relevance of Chinese Ink works to modern aesthetics. Interviewed by art critic Susan Moore in the latest edition of Bonhams Magazine (spring 2023), Michael said: "It is the ink painters who are truly revolutionary and culturally subversive. They are the most idealistic and intellectually daring of all contemporary Chinese artists."

Highlights among the Brush section of the sale include:

- ***Old Cypress from the Forbidden City, 2007* by Liu Dan** (b.1953). Despite his highly privileged training with noted ink painter Ya Ming, Liu Dan's work departs from the dramatic expressive qualities of the brush and brushstrokes that were central to his education. While living in the West from 1981 - 2006 he concluded that most twentieth-century Chinese art had been produced in response to external pressures. His aspiration to be an agent of self-directed creativity rather than reactive production inspired him to focus on structure in line with his personal philosophy of nature's generative force. Liu Dan's paintings of trees are rare, and most of his work usually depicts rocks or flowers. **Estimate: £200,000-300,000.**
- ***Landscape, 2010-2011* by Li Huayi** (b. 1948). Known for his meticulously detailed landscape paintings reminiscent of masterworks from the Song dynasty (960–1279), Li Huayi trained in the technical skills of both European and traditional Chinese painting. His careful study of the classics of Chinese and European art, as well as the modern American practice of abstraction, yielded paintings that are at once firmly rooted in the history of Chinese art and instantaneously meaningful to contemporary viewers. **Estimate: £100,000-200,000.**
- ***Happy The Man, 2019* by Xu Bing** (b. 1955). Xu is perhaps most famous for his square-word calligraphy, as exemplified in the present lot. Square word calligraphy, also known as New English calligraphy, is a way of presenting English or other words of the Roman alphabet as Chinese characters. The appearance of the writing is very close to that of a Chinese text; yet closer inspection shows that each 'character' is composed not a brushstroke components representing the radical or phonetic elements of a Chinese character, but letters of the Roman alphabet organised in a way that resembles the shape and proportions of Chinese characters. The present lot in fact is from the poem by John Dryden (1631-1700), 'Happy the Man'. Square word calligraphy forces the viewer to readjust their reading, and raises questions about cultural assumptions regarding language. It perhaps gives the viewer the feeling of learning to read again. **Estimate: £30,000-50,000.**
- ***Autumn Song, 1996* by Yang Yanping** (b.1934). Yang Yanping is famous for her paintings of Autumn and lotus, with impressive compositions of saturated reds, golds and ink on paper, her works strays close to pure abstraction. Yang is well versed in many traditional styles but has excelled in depicting the lotus flower, a symbol of purity, transience, the fragility of nature, and the potential for regeneration. Yang's ideals of high visual quality and an artistic autonomy allows

her to embrace modernism without jettisoning the lessons from the classical Chinese world of high culture. **Estimate: £6,000-8,000.**



Autumn Song, 1996 by Yang Yanping (b.1934).

The leading bronze sculpture in the sale is a **rare and important silver-inlaid bronze figure of Guanyin**. Its rarity lies not only in its exquisite casting with meticulous attention to detail, but also its large size and He Chaozong mark highlighting the link between Blanc-de-Chine wares and bronzes (He Chaozong was a celebrated early 17th century potter who specialised in Blanc-de-chine wares). Guanyin was a compassionate saviour who heard the woes of humankind, regardless of age, gender, or social class and became a popular intercessor for humanity to understand divine salvation. **Estimate: £100,000-200,000.**

Most of the bronze artefacts in the sale date from the Song, Ming and Qing dynasties and were admired not only for their intrinsic beauty but also for their poetic and intellectual associations with ritual bronze vessels made several thousand years earlier. Michael Goedhuis said: "It is a totally fascinating but long-neglected field. It is only recently that the great historic collections in the West have begun to research and publish their holdings. Museum interest is growing in these later bronzes, but they remain really good value."

Other bronze highlights include:

An extremely rare bronze suspended 'immortal and raft' incense vessel from the 14th/15th century. Although it is an incense burner or perfumer, the shape may possibly have been inspired by Central Asian and Persian *kashkul*, or so called 'beggar's bowls'. **Estimate: £15,000-20,000.**

Edward Luper, Bonhams specialist in Chinese Works of Art and the curator of the sale, said: "Michael Goedhuis is a legendary and pioneering figure in the world of Chinese art. Bonhams is privileged to have been chosen to present this peerless selection of works from two of his greatest areas of expertise. No doubt, this sale will be a wonderful

opportunity for a new generation of collectors and enthusiasts to learn from Michael's decades of expertise in contemporary ink art and later bronzes."

Sale: Michael Goedhuis: Brush and Bronze
Location: 101 New Bond Street
Date: Thursday 18 May 2023

Enquiries

For further information, email press@bonhams.com

Bonhams, founded in 1793, is one of the world's largest and most renowned auctioneers, offering fine art and collectables, collectors' cars and a luxury division, which includes jewellery, designer fashion, watches, wine, and whisky. In 2021 and 2022, Bonhams made a number of important acquisitions which form the wider Bonhams network. These include: Bukowskis, Bruun Rasmussen, Bonhams Skinner, Bonhams Cornette de Saint Cyr and The Market by Bonhams.

There are 14 salerooms around the globe: **UK:** New Bond Street, London; Knightsbridge, London; Edinburgh. **US:** New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Marlborough. **Hong Kong:** Admiralty. **France:** Avenue Hoche, Paris; Rue de la Paix, Paris. **Belgium:** Brussels; **Denmark:** Copenhagen. **Sweden:** Stockholm and **Australia:** Sydney.

With a worldwide network of offices and regional representatives in 22 countries, Bonhams offers advice and valuation services in 60+ specialist areas.

In 2022, Bonhams held a number of important auctions and offered landmark single-owner collections, including the white glove sales of *Sir Michael Caine: The Personal Collection*, *Sir Terence Conran: The Contents of Barton Court*, *Personal Property of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg* and *The Robert & Jean-Pierre Rousset Collection of Asian Art: A Century of Collecting*. Other notable single-owner sales included *Style and Substance: The Collection of George and Charlotte Shultz* and *The Claude de Marteau Collection*.

Top lots for 2022 included a 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder (Sold for US\$4,185,000), a pair of blue and white octagonal candlesticks (Sold for HK\$30,453,00/ US\$3,911,913), *La femme en rouge au fond bleu* by Chaïm Soutine (Sold for £1,842,300/ US\$2,236,940), and a rare emerald and diamond Cartier bracelet (Sold for US\$3,240,375).

More information and highlights can be found [HERE](#)

For a full list of forthcoming auctions, plus details of Bonhams specialist departments, please visit bonhams.com

The Bonhams Network

Bukowskis

Established in 1870, Bukowskis offers fine art and collectables from its saleroom in Stockholm as well as online. In 2021, it sold 11 of the 15 most valuable artworks in the Swedish market – achieving the highest price for a Swedish artwork ever sold at auction – while their innovative digital presence attracts more than one million users every month.

Bruun Rasmussen

From its Copenhagen saleroom and online, Bruun Rasmussen sells more than 75,000 lots each year across categories from furniture, paintings and modern design to silver, wine and collector's items such as books, arms and armour, stamps and coins.

Bonhams Skinner

Renowned New England auction house Bonhams Skinner holds some 80 auctions a year in 20 collecting categories – including Americana, fine art, collectables and wine, and ranging from fine violins to contemporary paintings – at its salerooms in Boston and Marlborough, Massachusetts, as well as on its highly effective digital platform for online sales.

Bonhams Cornette de Saint Cyr

Established in 1973, Bonhams Cornette de Saint Cyr is famous throughout the auction world for its high-profile single-owner sales. With salerooms in Paris and Brussels, it holds auctions in more than a dozen categories, including fine art, haute couture, Asian art, collectable cars, jewellery, watches and more.

The Market by Bonhams

The Market by Bonhams is the record-setting and fastest-growing online marketplace for classic and collectable cars auctions in the UK, Europe and the United States. Combining traditional auction practices with an innovative, exciting digital platform, they offer a five-star service, no buyer's fees and the lowest seller's commission in the industry.