

MEDIA RELEASE ON BEHALF OF HENRY BUTCHER ART AUCTIONEERS SDN. BHD.

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## **97% SOLD AT HENRY BUTCHER MALAYSIAN & SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART AUCTION**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** On 13 April 2014, Henry Butcher's Malaysian & Southeast Asian Art Auction realised a strong total in excess of RM3 million, well above the pre-sale estimates of RM1.9 to RM2.7 million. A staggering success rate of 97% by lot was achieved and 60% soared beyond their higher estimates. More excitingly, auction debuts for 26 new names saw most artists performed exceedingly well.

Highly sought-after Indonesian painters with global recognition, Affandi and I Nyoman Masriadi have both achieved outstanding results in an all-time auction debut at Henry Butcher. The highlight pieces *Bamboo Bridge* dated 1989 by Affandi obtained an exceptional offer of RM123,200 while an early and untitled piece dated 1998 by I Nyoman Masriadi was competed fiercely by room and telephone bidders and was successfully sold to the latter at RM125,440. Among the Indonesian names who achieved sales beyond the higher estimates were Erica Hestu Wahyuni's *Parade of Harvesting Party* achieving RM31,360 (estimate RM12,000 – RM18,000); Dullah's alluring depiction of *Dayu Ade* dated 1976 achieved RM22,400 surpassing its higher estimate of RM18,000; and a profoundly animated piece by Heri Dono titled *Acrobat* realising RM13,440 (estimate RM6,000 – RM10,000).

Under the limelight was a collection of Nanyang masterpieces matched by exceptional provenance. Top four lots by two important artists in this section included Yong Mun Sen's rare oil painting dated 1948 titled *Hilly Coastal Scene with Fisherman in Rowing Boat* was realised at RM95,200 (estimate RM35,000 – RM50,000) while another watercolour piece titled *Junks Sailing In* dated 1955 was sold for RM32,480, a whopping increase against its lower estimate of RM12,000. *Girl at Study* by versatile artist Lee Cheng Yong achieved an all-time auction record with an astounding RM64,960 against its lower estimate of RM18,000 and the abstract expressionist piece titled *Group of Women* executed circa 1950s estimated at RM16,000 to RM25,000 achieved a buoyant RM35,840.

All three pieces by Khoo Sui Hoe performed well, most remarkably with a 1970 piece titled *Three with Crescent Moon* which was sold for RM53,760. A unique piece by accomplished artist Lee Joo For titled *Swirling Haze Over Jalan Ah Fook, Johore Bahru* dated 1972 achieved RM20,160, a two-fold increase against its lower estimate of RM10,000. Tan Choon Ghee's tranquil oil painting *Kapitan Keling Mosque* executed in 1992 soared above the higher estimate obtaining RM33,600 (estimate RM20,000 – RM28,000). Kuo Ju Ping's illustration of *Chew Jetty* (c.1950s) was sold for RM26,880, topping its higher estimate of RM25,000.

The Chinese ink segment also saw tremendous interest by both seasoned and new collectors locally and abroad. Chuk Mor's *Bird with Flowers* executed in ink and colour on silk was a favourite among literati painting enthusiasts. Intense bidding across the saleroom for this attractive ink work resulted in a striking total of RM26,880 (estimate RM5,000 – RM7,000). *Two Herons* by Singaporean pioneer Chen Wen Hsi raking in RM47,040 against a lower estimate of RM25,000. Huang Yao performed extraordinarily well with *Boating*, an idyllic ink work deriving from his *Nanyang* series dated 1979 achieving RM24,640; all five pieces from his *Children* series surpassed the higher estimates particularly *Children with Lion Dance* hitting RM13,440 against the lower estimate of RM2,000, accomplishing a six-fold increase in value; and *Lucky Catch* from his *Folklore* series was sold for RM24,640 against the higher estimate of RM15,000.

Abstract maestros achieved staggering prices with Abdul Latiff Mohidin's two sketches from his seminal *Pago-Pago* series: *Angkor Wat* (1966) obtaining a cool RM33,600 and *Pangkor* (1965) which realised slightly more at RM38,080 (both estimated at RM15,000 – RM20,000); Awang Damit Ahmad's *Sinuman Dak Essence of Culture* (1988) fetched a whopping RM44,240, a three-fold increase against its higher estimate of RM15,000; *Energy (Monsoon Series)* dated 2009 by Suzlee Ibrahim was sold for RM22,400 (estimate RM8,000 – RM12,000) and Jolly Koh's *Red Landscape* (2001) raked in RM29,120 against its lower estimate of RM15,000. A special section featuring internationally established Filipino artists which included the Ventura brothers Ronald and Rolando 'Olan', Winner Jumalon, Juanito Torres and Ranelle Dial was 100% sold.

Fresh-to-the-market names such as Choo Beng Teong, Mazli Mat Som, and Samsuddin Wahab performed exceptionally well with prices soaring beyond higher estimates. The monumental pentptych piece which graces the front cover of the sale's catalogue titled *Warning! Tapir Crossing* by one of the Matahati founding members, Ahmad Shukri Mohamed broke an all-time record price for the artist achieving RM110,000. Contemporary artists Mastura Abdul Rahman, Chong Siew Ying, Kow Leong Kiang and Wong Hoy Cheong gained competitive interest among bidders as the prices ascended above higher estimates.

"We are delighted to witness great appetite for *Nanyang* works from collectors at home and abroad in this sale. New interest in Southeast Asian art has also flourished resulting in progressive growth in cross-cultural acquisitions. There is an ever-growing participation by international bidders such as Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam, Israel and the Netherlands", comments Mr. Lim Eng Chong, Director of Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers.

Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers continue to pursue its objectives of fostering sustainable growth for the Malaysian art industry as well as to encourage art collection and investment in Malaysia while providing a transparent and competitive platform for collectors to buy and sell artworks. There are more representations of Malaysian art in the regional and international auction houses which marks the beginning of a new journey to build a global platform for Asian art.

For full results please visit our website [www.hbart.com.my](http://www.hbart.com.my)

We are now accepting consignment for our next sale in October/November 2014. For more information, kindly contact Mr. Christopher Tay at +6016 298 0852 or email [chris@hbart.com.my](mailto:chris@hbart.com.my)

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