

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

Thursday, 7 November 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

## **HENRY BUTCHER MALAYSIAN & SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART AUCTION STANDS STRONG AT RM3.5 MILLION**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** On 3 November 2013, Henry Butcher's Malaysian & Southeast Asian Art Auction realised a strong total of RM 3,514,140, well above the pre-sale estimates of RM2.1 to RM3.0 million. A staggering success rate of 97% by lot was achieved and 70% soared beyond their higher estimates. More excitingly, auction debuts for 30 new names saw most artists performed exceedingly well.

Top three lots of the sale were Ibrahim Hussein's *Blue Nude* created in 1980 - in pastel hues of blue with tinges of pink, green and purple, a sensual cloud suggestive of a morphing nude figure emerges as the central motif radiating a sense of bliss - hailed from a distinguished private collection in the United Kingdom, sold at RM319,000; Chang Fee Ming's effortless illustration of a set of three pillows, a bolster and two blankets resting over a *kampung* window titled *Monsoon Has Gone* fetched RM209,000, an auction record for the artist in Malaysia; and H.H. Lim whose first appearance at auction performed astonishingly well with *Flying Image in Blue Project* – a stunning rendition of the Cessna 120/140 - realising RM121,000.

Among the fresh-to-the-market names in this sale that performed triumphantly are Southeast Asian superstars Eko Nugroho's modest-sized diptych work on paper was sold for RM4,400 (estimate RM600 – RM1,000); Natee Utarit, whose pair of *Study for Classical Project: Titian* both estimated at RM2,000 to RM4,000 raised RM17,600 and RM20,900 respectively as room bidders competed fiercely with nine telephone bidders; and Ronald Ventura's sculpture of a Doberman head raking in RM17,600 (estimate RM6,000 – RM9,000).

Yeoh Jin Leng's Reductionism piece titled *Paddy Field* (estimate RM5,000 – RM8,000) was realised at an astounding RM14,300; Eric Chan's visual interpretation of a distant memory proved to be one of the favourites during the auction. Estimated at RM12,000 to RM16,000, *It's There, It's Still There* was sold for RM25,300. Cover lot *Garden of Bliss III* by distinguished artist and art educator Sulaiman Esa excelled in this sale attaining RM55,000, surpassing its higher estimate value of RM40,000.

“We are proud to see progressive growth in interest for Malaysian and Southeast Asian art from both seasoned collectors and new bidders participating in this sale. An astounding total of 73% of auction debuts are sold above their higher estimates in this sale,” comments Datuk Vincent Sim, Director of Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers.

An all-time auction record was established for Khoo Sui Hoe with an oil painting titled *Around the Moon*. Dated 1972, its price soared above the ceiling to RM93,500 attributed to the spirited bidding across the saleroom. Estimated at RM18,000 to RM30,000, this harmonious piece has been in a private collection in Australia for over three decades and has now returned home for the very first time. Nanyang pioneer artists like Chia Yu Chian performed exceedingly well when *Tourist Centre – Selangor Mansion Quarter*, a vibrant post-Impressionist style oil painting fetched RM55,000 (estimate RM18,000 – RM25,000); Lee Cheng Yong’s abstract piece titled *Colour Scheme* (estimate RM16,000 – RM25,000) was sold for RM35,200; and Kuo Ju Ping’s *Pitt Street, Penang* fetched RM30,800 against its lower estimate of RM20,000. Chinese ink paintings remain competitive with auction stars Chen Wen Hsi’s *Egrets with Flowers* which fetched RM55,000 and Huang Yao’s *Welcoming Friends with Tea* was sold for RM35,200.

A selection of seven artworks offered in a special tribute to Tew Nai Tong was 100% sold with six pieces selling above the higher estimates. Intense bidding across the saleroom for the late artist’s early piece titled *Fishing Village* dated 1962 saw its price soar from its lower estimate of RM7,000 to a smashing RM19,800. *Ceremony in Bali*, an illustration of five ladies carrying baskets of offerings in a daily Balinese ritual captured in Tew Nai Tong’s signature style was sold for RM24,200 exceeding its higher estimate of RM12,000 whilst *Golden Time 12* was sold for RM77,000 making it the top lot in this segment.

A first time collaborative segment with regional auction house One East Larasati which brought 19 remarkable Malaysian and Southeast Asian works sold out totaling RM394,350. Featuring at auction in Malaysia for the first time, Agus Suwage’s *I Want to Live Another Thousand Years* (estimate RM27,000 – RM35,000) sparked immense interest among bidders when it fetched RM42,900. Chan Kok Hooi’s *Young Mammary Mother & Child* from his provocative *Old Photo Series: Sexual Organ* dated 2007 was sold at RM14,300. Dullah’s 1976 sultry oil painting titled *Portrait of a Woman* (estimate RM9,000 – RM12,000) gained competitive interest among bidders as it fetched a buoyant RM25,300.

Mr. Lim Eng Chong, Director of Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers commented: “When we first presented Southeast Asian art into the local market last April, we were extremely delighted with the optimistic results. Our collaboration with One East Larasati this time around proved to be an exciting venture with all 19 works sold remarkably well. Cross-cultural buying is also apparent in this sale with telephone bidding from Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and the United Kingdom.”



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 April/May 2014. For more information, kindly contact Mr. Christopher Tay at +6016 298 0852 or email [chris@hbart.com.my](mailto:chris@hbart.com.my)

#####