



## POST-AUCTION RELEASE: ART AUCTION MALAYSIA 28 OCTOBER 2012

For Immediate Release  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2012

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### WORLD RECORD PRICES ACHIEVED AT HENRY BUTCHER 4<sup>th</sup> AUCTION OF MALAYSIAN ART

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Launching the bi-annual sale of Malaysian Art for the first time, Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers attracted a full house of over 300 participants at the Sime Darby Convention Centre; among them include some artists whose works were represented in the sale. The sale realised a staggering amount of RM3.75mil with 95% of lots sold and 60% of the lots were sold well exceeding the higher estimates.

Commenting on the sale, Lim Eng Chong, Director of Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers said: "We had a great response with the turnout and are excited with the increase of many new clients from all across Malaysia and Singapore. The strong participation from local bidders is also very encouraging. We hope to welcome a bigger turnout and continue to deliver more quality artworks in our next sale."

The highlight of the auction was an abstract painting, ***Samarkhand 3, 1994*** by renowned Malaysian modern master Abdul Latiff Mohidin. *Samarkhand* named after the UNESCO Heritage historical jewel in Islamic Central Asia, sees an avalanche of expressive strokes in yellow glow, fiery red and darkened hues. This rare work in huge dimension attracted significant attention and was sold after a fierce bidding by 2 phone bidders and 4 room bidders to achieve its world record price of RM605,000, which more than doubled its higher estimate of RM250,000, by far the highest amount paid in auction for the living artist. Another gem on offer by the artist, which also doubled the higher estimate of RM180,000 was an abstract dated 1991, ***New Landscape, 1991*** believed to belong to the early flushes of *Rimba* series, had strong outlines and bold compositional streaks of yellow and red warm tones balanced with cool blues and green hues, well exceeded estimation of RM374,000.

Datuk Ibrahim Hussein's ***Untitled 2001*** garnered substantial bidding in the room and on the phone and eventually sold for RM264,000. Another piece by Ib, ***Untitled 1973*** was sold post auction at RM170,000.

The sale also broke the previous auction record of a *batik* work in June 2011 auction with ***Bathing Baby, 1992*** being sold at RM176,000 by the Father of Batik, Dato' Chuah Thean Teng. This three by three feet painting was a quintessential representation of the mother and child theme the artist is widely known for.

Another highlight which drew an intense bidding war in the room and on the phone was Chia Yu Chian's ***Paris 1959***, setting a record for highest price achieved at auction by the artist. The work from his highly sought after *Paris Series*, coupled with a bold composition and vibrant palette, which records the artist's transition and combination of the raw Nanyang influence and academic training in his oeuvre of works, was finally sold to a bidder in the room at RM77,000.

Leading contemporary artist, Hamir Soib @Mohamed, captivated many with his skilled manipulation of bitumen in ***The Eruption of Desire, 2009*** doubled its lower estimate and was sold at RM57,200 after a fierce bidding war in the room, the five by five and a half feet canvas work portraying an eruption of volcanic fumes concealing a country scene on a background.

The immense interest continued onto the following lot ***Rambutan Tok Deris, 2000*** by Jalaini Abu Hassan, a classic representation of his works containing local elements with mixed media. The work which has travelled to New York and Singapore is now back in the country and was sold for RM46,200. This affirms the growing acceptance for edgy contemporary works which was also reflected in the first time appearance of Wong Hoy Cheong's photographic work which re-enacted the final meal of the notorious Malaysian criminal, Botak Chin, who was also reputed to be a modern-day Robin Hood. ***Chronicals of Crime: Last Supper, 2006*** was sold at RM18,700.

"With the quality of works far exceeding our Chinese Ink debut section during our previous May sale, we are very pleased with the results. Though the quantity of works is lesser than the previous sale, 4 of the 5 works featured sold well and beyond their estimates. This goes to show that our Chinese Ink collectors are still very much actively on the hunt for quality masterpieces at auction." said Mr Vincent Sim, the Director of Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers when approached to comment on the sale.

The stellar feature of the Chinese Ink section was ***Gibbons Looking for Fish, Undated*** by Nanyang pioneer Chen Wen Hsi which was sold at RM126,500 to a phone bidder after an intense bidding war against 5 phone bidders. Wen Hsi studied the postures and characteristics of gibbons closely later as a pet owner, and was dubbed "Gibbon King" for his detailed and adept rendering of the creature. Another piece by this artist, ***Ducks, Undated*** was sold for RM62,700, two times its lower estimate.

International acclaimed watercolour artist, Chang Fee Ming's most compelling series of ***Awaiting, 1991*** was sold for RM143,000. Anuar Rashid's ***Untitled, 1979*** generated healthy bidding and eventually sold to a bidder in the room for RM52,000.

***Gopala Dancer, 1996*** and ***Kota Sunyi 3, 2006*** by Ahmad Zakii Anwar were sold for RM52,800 and RM77,000 respectively.

Linda Leoni, Business Manager of Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers commented: "We were delighted to have such a good response at the sale, which only proves the immense support and growing demand for quality Malaysian art. We have once again, set new international records for the price paid at auction for many of our Malaysian artists. The sale totalled RM3.75mil against our presale estimate of RM3mil with 95% of lots sold. The response from the room was overwhelming with many local collectors and bidders from Penang, Singapore and even Indonesia attended the sale. There was intense bidding on the phone for the Nanyang pioneers, which surpassed expectations. We saw the highest participation on the phone bidding".

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

We look forward to our next sale in April/May 2013. The auction house is accepting consignment now. For more information, please email [leoni@hbart.com.my](mailto:leoni@hbart.com.my).