

POST-AUCTION PRESS RELEASE

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HENRY BUTCHER MALAYSIAN & SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART AUCTION TRIUMPHS WITH TOTAL SALES APPROACHING RM 3MILLION

KUALA LUMPUR – On 9 November 2014, Henry Butcher’s Malaysian & Southeast Asian Art Auction realised a strong total of RM 2.98million. An exceptional success rate of 93% by lot was achieved and 50% soared beyond higher estimates. More excitingly, the Malaysian art market has broken through new territories with the participation of registered bidders from 11 countries globally via the newly introduced live online bidding system.

The crowded saleroom accommodated new and seasoned collectors as well as art enthusiasts who witnessed competitive bidding for works by Malaysian pioneer artists bearing immaculate provenance. A museum-quality masterpiece titled *Berenang* dated 1965 by renowned artist, educator and cultural observer the late Datuk Syed Ahmad Jamal - a rare and early oil painting available in the market since the artist’s last appearance at Henry Butcher Art auction in 2012 - achieved a staggering RM179,200 while an exquisite and rare work by Dzulkipli Buyong titled *Tiga Kucing (Three Cats)* fetched RM78,400 (estimate RM40,000 – RM60,000). Yeoh Jin Leng’s Reductionism piece titled *From the Plateau of Gunung Tahan* (estimate RM5,000 – RM8,000) realised an astounding RM19,040, an increase in value from *Paddy Field* featured a year ago which sold for RM14,300.

Internationally sourced artworks such as an intricate and vibrant batik piece by Dato’ Chuah Thean Teng titled *Feeding the Cat* dated 1975 - hailing from a private collection in the United States of America - attained a remarkable RM47,040. Skilful painter Mohd. Hoessein Enas performed exceptionally well with all three artworks on offer - originated from private collections abroad (Australia and United Kingdom) - exceeded their lower estimates. A vibrant expressionist piece by Jolly Koh dated 1998 realised a remarkable RM29,120 (estimate RM15,000 – RM25,000) while Datuk Ibrahim Hussein’s abstract collage piece *Somewhere Last Spring* dated 1965 experienced an intense battle in the saleroom between room and telephone bidders before eventually realising a whopping RM50,400, setting a record price for the legendary artist’s work on paper.

In the contemporary segment, collectors demonstrated particular appetite for large-scale paintings through competitive bidding, setting new world record prices for artists namely for Chong Siew Ying with her alluring piece *L’été* attaining RM89,600 (estimate RM28,000 – RM40,000) which was heavily contended by present and absent bidders – resulting in a victory claimed by a prominent collector in the saleroom; and for contemporary luminary Ahmad Fuad Osman achieving a staggering RM112,000 with an epic Renaissance-esque piece titled *The Drowning 2 (Lost series)* (estimate RM35,000 – RM50,000), a

two-fold increase from the higher estimate. Phuan Thai Meng's erotic piece *Solution 愚味* (estimate RM13,000 – RM18,000) garnered immense interest by collectors who competed fiercely and the final bidder succeeded at a staggering RM24,640. Fresh-to-the-market work by Chong Ai Lei, a sensual and solitary piece titled *Indolence 5* (estimate RM9,000 – RM12,000) also performed triumphantly well selling for RM20,160.

Works by highly sought-after second generation abstract artists continue to excite collectors particularly Awang Damit Ahmad's *Rumbia dan Pucuk Paku (Essence of Culture series)* which achieved a staggering RM61,600 (estimate RM10,000 – RM16,000). This dynamic gestural piece dated 1992 set the pace for two more desirable works by the artist that went under the hammer – another piece from the same seminal series saw its price soared above the ceiling at a whopping RM100,800 - attributed to the spirited bidding across the saleroom obtaining a fourfold increase in value while *Pelantar Waktu (Iraga series)* (estimate RM8,000 – RM12,000) fetched an astounding RM44,800. Zulkifli Yusoff and Yusof Ghani performed exceptionally well with works on offer exceeded the higher estimate.

The insatiable demand for Nanyang-style works remains strong as seen in 'Father of Malaysian Art' Yong Mun Sen's rare and unprecedented oil painting titled *Boats through the Nets* which graces the front cover of the auction catalogue sold for an astounding RM123,200 while the buzz for works by versatile Nanyang artist Lee Cheng Yong persists particularly for *Composition* which sold for RM59,360, the highest record for an abstract piece by the artist. An all-time record price was set for Fung Yow Chork, whose *Pasar Tani* dated 1992 fetched a striking RM21,280. Other Nanyang maestros such as Kuo Ju Ping, Khoo Sui Hoe, Chia Yu Chian and Tew Nai Tong also experienced extraordinary performance with their results.

Works by Southeast Asian artists such as Bui Xuan Phai from Vietnam and Natthawut Singthong from Thailand performed exceedingly well with the former's *Opera Cheo* achieving RM24,640 and *To Tich Street* realising RM11,200; while *My Love 2* (RM6,000 – RM9,000) by the latter fetched a buoyant RM12,320. First appearance by Filipino artist Melvin Culaba attracted positive interests by local collectors with an illustrious *Reminiscences/Memoribillas* attaining RM13,440. Internationally acclaimed Thai artist Natee Utarit gained significant attention by collectors with an early piece dated 2004 titled *Remember Me I (The Image of Made in China Italian Toy by Thai Painter for Malaysian Gallery)* (estimate RM16,000 – RM25,000) selling for RM29,120. Pioneer Filipino artist José Joya, featured at Henry Butcher Art auction for the first time was competed fiercely between room and telephone bidders and was eventually sold to the latter for a remarkable RM26,880.

A second collaborative segment with regional auction house One East Larasati which brought 14 remarkable Malaysian and Southeast Asian works sold out totaling RM298,144. Featuring at auction in Malaysia for the first time, Indonesian contemporary artist Yunizar's *Gudang* sparked immense interest among bidders when it fetched an attractive RM21,280 (estimate RM16,000 – RM19,000). Chang Fee

Ming's nostalgic *Good Morning, Terengganu* (estimate RM85,000 – RM125,000) gained competitive interest among bidders as it obtained an optimistic RM106,400.

Mr. Lim Eng Chong, Director of Henry Butcher Art Auctioneers commented: "We are extremely delighted with the participation of virtual bidders from Thailand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, China, the Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Canada and France in this sale and we are proud to present Malaysian and Southeast Asian art to a wider audience. Our second collaboration with One East Larasati has proved to be successful in promoting cross-cultural buying and selling too."

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.

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We are now accepting consignment for our next sale in April 2015. For more information, kindly contact 03 2691 3089 or 03 6206 2282 or email info@hbart.com.my

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