

## **HIROSHI SENJU** **Artiste japonais**

HIROSHI SENJU, the "waterfall artist", is a contemporary Japanese painter, known through the world for his sublime images of waterfalls and cliffs, often of monumental scale. He combines a minimalist visual language with ancient Japanese painting techniques: He is widely recognized as one of the current masters of 'nihonga' style of painting. With cumulative sales of \$ 1.8 million (83 lots), he ranked 91st in the Artprice (sales products) ranking. in the world of art in 2016/2017.

### The artist

Hiroshi Senju is born in Tokyo in 1958. He graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music where he obtained his BFA (1982) and his MFA (1984). In 1987 he completed a PhD program in Fine Arts at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. From 2007 to 2013 he was president of the Kyoto University of Art & Design. He is currently a professor at the Kyoto University of Art & Design and chairman of the joint education system of the Kyoto University of Art & Design and the Tohoku University of Art & Design. He lives and works in New York.

### Artwork

Hiroshi Senju brought his talent and energy to promote traditional paintings and Japanese techniques all over the world. He uses pigments made of minerals, stone debris, shells and corals, linked by glues of animal skins (nihonga technique) but also acrylic. His works show mostly natural spaces like waterfalls or night falls while he is tending towards abstraction in his form of painting. His "Nightfall" series, for example, is characterized by its fluorescent acrylic paint contrasting against dark backgrounds. In his cascades you can feel a deep calm though the water falls in precipitation, noise, or even the smell. "The greatest characteristic of Japanese culture is to be conscious of being part of nature. We try to express the joy of living in nature or the notion that nature makes us live. This way of thinking is not so common in Western art and culture. For geographical reasons, Westerners needed walls around cities to protect themselves and their culture from invasion. In contrast, Japan is surrounded by the ocean, so we are relatively secure against such an invasion. This fact is very rare in the history of our world. A culture and a people who grew up in this form of environment can have the freedom to become one with nature instantly, and I can say that our culture is truly blessed compared to others. Peace in other words, is the main characteristic of Japanese culture. Hiroshi Senju also produces many murals, among them the 77 paintings of Jukoin, a sub-temple of Daitokuji, a Zen Buddhist temple in Japan or the big waterfall at the Haneda Airport International Passenger Terminal in Tokyo or both installations on the Benesse Art Site of Naoshima Island in Japan. He also painted some twenty very large murals for the Japanese House and Garden, Shofuso, in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, USA, or Japanese-style wall panels for the APEC conference.

Hiroshi Senju exhibits a hundred of his works in his museum, the Hiroshi Senju Museum, opened in 2011 and designed by Japanese architect Ryue Nishizawa, who won the Pritzker Prize in 2010. Hiroshi Senju and architect John Pawson have seen each other awarded by the 2017 Isamu Noguchi Award. This annual award was created to recognize people who "share the spirit of innovation, global awareness and involvement in East / West cultural exchanges in Noguchi