

Who is the Indonesian artist Christine Ay Tjoe who just got \$ 1.5 million for one of his works sold at auction

Indonesian artist Christine Ay Tjoe created a surprise by obtaining \$ 1.5 million - 10 times its estimated value - for her work "Small Flies and Other Wings" (2013) at the Phillips sale of contemporary art in Hong Kong on May 28, 2017. Jonathan Crockett, the director of the Phillips auction house, said that four years ago it cost you between \$ 50,000 and \$ 100,000 for one of his paintings. Christine Ay Tjoe is one of the most renowned Indonesian artists and one of the best-known artists in Southeast Asia. She ranked 233th in the Artprice ranking of the Top 500 contemporary artists in the world with cumulative sales of \$ 637,297 in 2015-2016, so she made a tremendous leap in sales with this latest auction.

Christine Ay Tjoe was born in Bandung, Java, Indonesia, in 1973. She studied print and graphic art at the Bandung Institute of Technology and graduated in 1977. She began her career as a graphic designer, deepening the dry-point technique and then began working with textiles. Tjoe is known for her very colorful paintings with overlays. She uses protean oil bars and mixes figuration and abstraction. She also creates sculptures, kinetic art and large-scale installations. By their purely visual beauty, Christine Ay Tjoe's paintings are attractive but they go beyond that simple aesthetic rendering. Tjoe does not hesitate to express her own feelings such as melancholy, struggle, suffering and joy. She does not deal with political or satirical topics, she focuses on the human person. The artist aims to create various sensory experiences depending on how the viewer chooses to interpret color, form and movement. "Her art is a modern allegory that creates an opportunity for all of us to confront ourselves." Her palette of colors goes from earthy tones to deep reds, colors of powerful emotions.

Christine Ay Tjoe's works are exhibited all over the world. To quote only her most recent solo exhibitions, she was the first artist from Southeast Asia to be exhibited at the renowned White Cube Gallery, Bermondsey, London, in September 2016. In 2015 she had a great retrospective 'Perfect Imperfection' at SongEun Artspace in Seoul, South Korea. In December 2015, Ota Fine Arts Singapore presented "Our Nature: Ay Tjoe Christine + Zai Kuning", an exhibition of two of the most important artists from Southeast Asia. In 2012, Christine Ay Joe participated at one of the exhibitions proposed by the French luxury company Hermès to support Asian artists, in Singapore. Apart from the obvious quality of the work of Christine Ay Tjoe, Scott Reburn in the New York Times of June 2, 2017, also explained the success of the abstract painting, red and pink, of the artist, by a modification of the current taste of the region. "The politically charged figuration of "Cynical Realist" painters such as Yue Minjun, Zhang Xiaogang and Fang Lijun, which attracted many Western collectors in the 1990s and early 2000s, is no longer in fashion. President Xi Jinping's authoritarian leadership, censorship in China has tightened and artistic freedoms have been curtailed". Today the China Artists Association promotes a return to ink painting, which was confirmed by the success of sales of these paintings at Christie's "Chinese Contemporary Ink" auction on May 29, 2017 which reached HK \$ 17.7 million.

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