

“5 Can’t-Miss Works by Leading Contemporary Artists Heading to Poly Auction’s 10th Anniversary Sales This July,” *Artnet News*, June 22, 2022.

artnet news

Buyer's Guide partner

5 Can’t-Miss Works by Leading Contemporary Artists Heading to Poly Auction’s 10th Anniversary Sales This July

The Chinese auction house's Modern and contemporary art sales will take place from July 9 to July 14 and feature works by high-profile artists.

Artnet Gallery Network, June 22, 2022



Katherine Bernhardt, *Gold Pepsi Eyes* (2019). Courtesy of Poly Auction Hong Kong.

In a market dominated by auction houses that have been in business for centuries, Poly Auction Hong Kong has made quite a splash since it was founded ten years ago. The young firm’s subsidiary, Beijing Poly International Auction, is today the largest auction house in China, with the highest auction transaction volume of Chinese art globally.

Poly’s influence extends far beyond China, too, and in the past few years the house has carved out unique partnerships with its Western counterparts, including Philips and Artnet Auctions. It has found remarkable success by introducing Asian collectors to Western contemporary artists, as well as the reverse. Even amid the financial and business tumult of

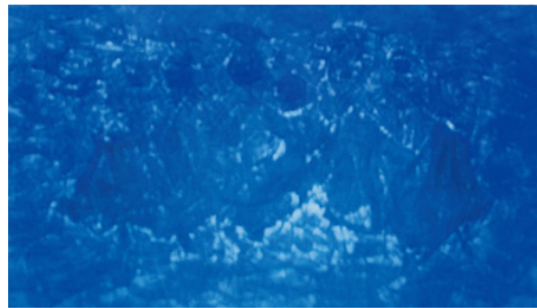
“5 Can’t-Miss Works by Leading Contemporary Artists Heading to Poly Auction’s 10th Anniversary Sales This July,” *Artnet News*, June 22, 2022.

recent years, Poly Auction Hong Kong concluded 2021 with an impressive HK\$2.6 billion in sales.

To celebrate its 10-year anniversary, Poly Auctions is hosting a week of high-profile auctions including both Modern and contemporary evening and day sales (July 12 and 13, respectively), with a number of covetable works by trending artists.

Ahead of the auctions, we’ve handpicked five works heading to Poly Auction’s Modern and contemporary art evening sale that we don’t think you should miss. Check out our picks below.

Xie Nanxing
The First Round with a Whip No.2 (The Wave No.2) (2008)
Estimate: HK\$3,500,000–5,500,000



Xie Nanxing, *The First Round with a Whip No.2 (The Wave No.2)* (2008). Courtesy of Poly Auction Hong Kong.

With his progressive vision, Xie Nanxing has become one of the most significant Chinese artists in the contemporary field. Born in Chongqing in 1970, the artist first came to wider attention at the 48th Venice Biennale in 1999, where he showed a series of distinctive portraits. *The First Round With a Whip No.2 (The Wave No.2)*, created in 2008, marks a clear departure from his works from the 1990s and early 2000s.

The painting is part of a series consisting of three works—titled *No.1*, *No.2*, and *No.3* respectively—that were shown in his solo exhibition “BIG SHOW” at the Galerie Urs Meile in Beijing the same year they were painted. In these works, the artist intended to explore the idea of the “Freudian slip,” an unintentional verbal or physical manifestation of subconscious feelings, as coined by famed psychologist Sigmund Freud.

The works are meant to play a visual game of concealing and revealing meaning—both from the viewers and the artist himself. In *The First Round With a Whip No.2 (The Wave No.2)*, a group of children are faintly depicted with their elongated figures shrouded in a blue halo. The mysterious image immerses us in a long, dizzying game of looking.

<https://news.artnet.com/buyers-guide/anniversary-auction-highlights-poly-auction-hong-kong-july-2022-2134439>