

A powerful Fu Baoshi

8 DECEMBER

Fu Baoshi's works (1904-1965) are rarely found in Europe, while in China the painter garners millions with every auction. Before reaching the saleroom in Cannes, this drawing certainly travelled a good distance. Its owners were André Guillabert and Thérèse Wang, born respectively in Shanghai in 1898 and in Canton in 1905. Thérèse was Chinese, while André came from a French family. They married in the late 1920s and lived in the old part of Shanghai, but the Indochina War forced them to return to France in 1946. They settled in Cannes with a few rapidly assembled souvenirs of their life in China, like this painting by Fu Baoshi. A judicious choice, because the painter was already considered a major Chinese

artist in his lifetime. After the start of the Sino-Japanese War, Fu Baoshi and his family went to live at the foot of the Chongqing Mountains. Here, for a decade, he produced extraordinarily beautiful landscapes in which, as here, water and trees mingle in turmoil, while a few small figures can be seen in the lower part, seemingly lost in the immensity of nature. Fu Baoshi gave fresh life to this traditional genre through his particular brush technique, with its powerful broken lines and fluid, wet washes. "Free, unconventional" paintings, to quote one of his admirers, the artist Xu Beihong. **Caroline Legrand**

| Cannes, Cannes Enchères auction house.



Fu Baoshi (1904-1965), "Shenshan Tingquan Tu" ("The sage who listens to the spring (or fountain) in the mountains"), c. 1942-1946, ink and colour on paper, stamp: "Baoshi sj yin wangwang zui hou", 90 x 56 cm (detail). Estimate: €30,000/50,000.