For Immediate Release
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PIONEERS OF MODERN CHINESE PAINTING IN PARIS

A Rare Exhibition of Museum Quality Modern Chinese Paintings

[Lin Fengmian, Fishing market, Oil on canvas, Signed middle right in Chinese: Lin Fengmian, 77.5 x 77.5 cm, Reserved rights, courtesy de Sarthe Gallery]

HONG KONG. – de Sarthe Gallery is pleased to present an extremely rare collection of masterpieces in “Pioneers of Modern Chinese Painting in Paris.” Through the great swathes of history Sino-French artists of the early 20th century have been heralded as fundamental pioneers in the canon of Chinese art history. The exhibition will be held from 13th May – 21st June 2014 and will feature the works of:

Xu Beihong 1895-1953 (Paris 1919-1927)
Lin Fengmian 1900-1991 (Paris 1920-1926)
Wu Dayu 1903-1988 (Paris 1922-1927)
Yun Gee 1906 – 1963 (Paris 1927 – 1930)
Wu Guanzhong 1919-2010 (Paris 1947-1950)
Zao Wou-Ki 1920-2013 (Paris 1948-2013)
Chu Teh-Chun 1920-2014 (Paris 1955-2014)

Following World War I, reform-minded Chinese debated how best to modernize their nation. It was under such revolutionary auspices that intellectual leader Chen Duxiu proposed the “Revolution of Art” – spurning a generation of Chinese artists to emigrate to Europe in search of deliverance. In the early 20th century, Paris was the global epicenter of great intellectual and cultural achievement, with old traditions challenged by avant-garde movements. It was against this backdrop that the pioneers of modern Chinese painting emerged. Straddling cultures, the artists departed from their centuries old Chinese heritage by infusing their works with a Western visual language.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People’s Republic of China and France, this exhibition will feature a stellar 15 masterpieces from the first and second generations of the most important Chinese artists who moved to, or worked temporarily, in Paris from 1919 onward. It will also demonstrate how the second generation artists such as Zao Wou-Ki, Chu The-Chun, and T’ang Haywen later returned to their roots and created a “Chinese Abstraction”, a measured reconciliation of Chinese and European aesthetics.

Represented artists in the exhibition also established important conventions across a scope of traditional subjects; from Xu Beihong’s important horses in Chinese ink to Sanyu and Pan Yuliang’s female nudes and Xiong Bingming’s buffalo sculptures – leaving a mark and resounding influence on the course of art from China.

Many from within this distinguished group of artists were admitted into the Académie des Beaux-Arts, and their importance have been recognised by leading global institutions, as well as highly commended in the art market. Their works form part of permanent collections of important international museums and are widely exhibited in both private and public institutions throughout Europe, America and Asia. Concurrently, the works of these pioneers of Modern Chinese painting are also sought after by private collections – breaking a multitude of auction records over the years. These fathers heralded the golden age of painting and cross-nation expression, influencing visual culture until this day.

Exhibition Information
Pioneers of Modern Chinese Painting in Paris
de Sarthe Gallery
13 May – 21 June, 2014
8/F Club Lusitano building, 16 Ice House Street, Central, Hong Kong

INTERVIEWS WITH PASCAL DE SARTHE AVAILABLE BY REQUEST

PRESS PREVIEW
13th May 2014
3:00pm – 4:00pm
8/F, Club Lusitano Building, 16 Ice House Street, Central, Hong Kong
Founder Pascal de Sarthe will lead a tour of the exhibition

PREVIEW COCKTAIL
13th May 2014
6:00pm – 8:00pm
8/F, Club Lusitano Building, 16 Ice House Street, Central, Hong Kong

MEDIA ENQUIRIES
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NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

About de Sarthe Gallery

de Sarthe Gallery was founded in 1977 in Paris, later establishing galleries in America and most recently Hong Kong. It represents and exhibits a diverse spectrum of international artists, from important modern masters to a generation of emerging talents. de Sarthe Gallery artists include established icons; Zao Wou-Ki, Chu Teh-Chun, de Kooning, Andy Warhol and Chen Zhen as well as contemporary figures Wang Guofeng, Lin Jingjing amongst others. de Sarthe Gallery aims to provide the international audience with a strong series of curated group and solo shows, which is complimented by a rigorous publication programme.

In 2014 de Sarthe Gallery will inaugurate a second gallery space in Beijing. The second gallery will be dedicated to contemporary art from China prominently positioning the presence of de Sarthe Gallery in the international art scene.

[Pan Yuliang, Nude, 1967, Ink and watercolor on paper, 60 x 90.5 cm. Reserved rights, courtesy de Sarthe Gallery]
[Chu Teh-Chun, Untitled No.195 1965-66, Oil on canvas, Signed and dated center left 1966, Signed and dated 1965 - 66 on verso 1, 46 x 114 cm. Reserved rights, courtesy de Sarthe Gallery]