

Cheung Yee 張義



Cheung Yee was born in Guangzhou, China in 1936 to a family involved in the ceramic trade. Cheung was interested at an early age in handicrafts ranging from paper folding, clay modeling, stone sculpture to wood carving. He grew up in Hong Kong and studied Chinese painting and seal carving at the Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, Taiwan from 1954-58.

Cheung returned to Hong Kong after graduation and found that his strengths lie in his possession of a fine tactile sense and a feeling for 3-dimensional space. Hence, Cheung started to achieve his artistic goals in sculpture. In 1962, the form of the tortoise shell made its appearance in Cheung's repertoire and he produced large numbers of wood carvings carrying the concept of primitive art. In 1966, Cheung made the tortoise shell into his personal artistic vocabulary.

In Chinese, Cheung's artwork titles have philosophical evocation echoing meanings of the Yijing (易經), Classic of Changes – power is assimilated by the harmonious state of the male and female sex and such harmony also represents the unity of man and nature. In the early 1980s, Cheung began to collect crabs which formed an important source for his artistic inspirations. For Cheung, the tortoise motif represents a placid and simple art form while the crab motif represents a sophisticated and forced art form.

Three characteristics are to be noted in Cheung's works from the late 1980s to 1990s are the form of xuanwu (玄武), a combined form of tortoise and snake; the compositions derive from the ancient hetu and luoshu (河圖洛書) magic squares, the oldest pictorial annotations in Chinese myths; and the images derive from the four spirits and eight trigrams (四相八卦).

The art of Cheung Yee draws inspiration from ancient cultural elements of prehistoric China and employs the framework of modern western art. His sculptures and prints form a timeless meeting place of modern art and ancient culture.

Artist Biography

Timeline

- 1936 Born in Guangzhou, China
- 1958 Graduated from the Fine Art Department of Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan
- 1963 Founded the Circle Group with other local artists
- 1964 Exhibited at City Museum and Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- 1965 Grant to the U.S.A. and Europe from the Institute of International Education
Exhibited at Commonwealth Institute, London
- 1966 Exhibited at Sally Jackson Gallery, Hong Kong
- 1967 Exhibited at The Luz Gallery, Manila, Philippines
- 1968-73 Tutor in Extramural Studies Department of Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 1969 Exhibited in Hong Kong, the U.S.A. and the Philippines
- 1976 Part-time lecturer of the Department of Fine Art of the Chinese University of Hong Kong
Exhibited at Hong Kong Arts Center
- 1978 Exhibited at the Hong Kong Museum of Art
Exhibited at the Pacific Gallery, San Francisco
- 1978-83 Senior lecturer, Department of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic Institute
- 1979 Awarded the Member Order of the British Empire (Honorary)
Exhibited at Printmakers Art Gallery, Taiwan
- 1983 Lecturer, Department of Fine Arts of the Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 1984-92 Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 1987 Founding member of the Hong Kong Artists Guild
- 1988 Awarded Sculptor of the Year Award 1988, Hong Kong Artists Guild
Exhibited at Hsiung Shih Gallery, Taiwan
Exhibited at Galerie du Monde, Hong Kong
- 1993 Exhibited at the Hong Kong Museum of Art
Exhibited at the Duchamp Gallery, Taiwan
- 1994 Exhibited at Artpreciation Gallery, Hong Kong
Exhibited at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum Taipei, Taiwan
Exhibited at Crown Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan
Exhibited at Shung Kao Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1995 Art Asia Hong Kong - HK Convention & Exhibition Center
Art Trends 95 - HK Convention & Exhibition Center
Group show at Crown Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan
Group show at Hampshire Art Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan
Faculty show of Fine Arts Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 1996 Taipei & Hong Kong Leading Artist Exhibition, Museum Annex, Hong Kong
The 11th Asian International Art Exhibition, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines
Exhibition at Artpreciation Gallery, Hong Kong
- 1997 Faculty show of 40th Anniversary of Fine Arts Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Participated in joint exhibition of One Country, Two Perspectives at Galerie du Monde, Hong Kong
- 1999 Solo exhibition at Galerie du Monde, Hong Kong