

New Exhibition at the Museum of East Asian Art

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Reflections: Contemporary Ink Paintings by Wu Lan-Chiann

28 November 2015 – 15 May 2016



Reflections of the Past, 1999, Wu Lan-Chiann

Reflections is the first UK solo exhibition of Wu Lan-Chiann, Chinese ink painting artist. This exhibition will be held at the Museum of East Asian Art from 28 November 2015 until 15 May 2016.

At the core of Wu Lan-Chiann's work, is a deep personal contemplation of universal themes and values that connect people across time and place. While continuing a tradition that is centuries old, her paintings are distinctly contemporary both in concept and execution.

Reflections exhibits a selection of Wu Lan-Chiann's work produced over the past twenty years. Displayed in reverse chronological order in the museum's galleries, the exhibition has three themes; early career work, dusk to dawn series, and current directions. "Wu Lan-Chiann has a very special eye": says MEAA Curator Nicole Chang. "Starting from a young age, she combined Asian and Western modes of representation into a personal style that is intensely poetic. Blending two very different painting traditions, she has emerged as an artist with an authentic style marked by decisive brushwork and delicate application of colour."

Born and raised in Taiwan, much of Wu Lan-Chiann's early inspiration came from her direct surroundings where she observed connections with people and places that were meaningful to her. "I view the world as if I am looking through a rectangular frame, and paint what I perceive rather than what I see": adds Wu Lan-Chiann. This practice is deeply rooted in the tradition of Chinese ink painting. In the late 4th to early 5th century, the renowned painter and philosopher Zong Bin already claimed that a landscape should capture the spirit of nature rather than its physical form. Trained under Ou Haonian, Wu Lan-Chiann is well versed in the tradition of Chinese ink paintings, but at the same time capable of supplementing contemporary interpretations in her works.

Wu Lan-Chiann lives and works in California. After arriving in the U.S., she further embraced Western techniques but remained true to Asian ink painting. Western influences are particularly noticeable with the use of one-point perspective and the application of light. To her, light is a metaphor of human resilience. In her paintings, the glimmers of light represent the love, hope and strength that shine from within people and carry them through challenging times in life. In her recent work, Wu Lan-Chiann is interested in capturing the precious but fleeting moments of life through the depiction of free floating petals and leaves. She sees a comparison between the rhythm of nature and the human cycle of life. Her work captures special moments and at the same time represents the invariable and eternal cycle of life and nature.



Full Moon (detail), 2014, Wu Lan-Chiann

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Additional Information/Interview with the artist/Images:

Please contact Rachel Yi Yuan, 02115 464640, r.yuan@meaa.org.uk for more information about the exhibition, or for interview with the artist. Digital photography is available upon request.

About the Museum of East Asian Art:

Located in Bath, UK, opened to the public in 1993 as an educational charity. The Museum of East Asian Art is the only museum in the UK solely dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of East and Southeast Asian arts and cultures. with nearly 2,000 set of objects, representing more than 7,000 years of artistry and craftsmanship from East and Southeast Asia. The museum has received from Arts Council England the Accreditation status, which sets nationally agreed standards for the museum in UK.

The exhibition is made possible with the support of the: Hakka Foundation in Arcadia, California, Taiwanese American Arts Council in Queens, New York, and with the generous support from: June and Simon K.C. Li; Michael and Amy Lin; Yvonne and Albert Chang; and Wu Kuang-Hsin & Tsao Zuway-Yun. The Museum of East Asian Art would like to thank the following lenders to the exhibition: Collection of Harry Brownlee and Marvin Koenig; Courtesy of Frank Bara and Marvin Hayes; Private Collection and Courtesy of the artists. The exhibition section *New Exploration* includes studies for Wu Lan-Chiann's project *Cycle of Life*. Inspired by John Keats's *The Humans Seasons* and fiscally sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts, *Cycle of Life* explores the rhythm of nature as an allegory for the human cycle of life.