

Low Hai Hong's Art

Born in Sumatra, Indonesia in 1941, Low majored in western painting at Singapore's oldest art institution: The Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, whose brilliant artist-tutors were leading artists of the time that groomed a generation of serious artists.

Low's enduring artistic career that spans 5 decades, epitomises the spirit of continuous innovation. His persistent exploration of new artistic frontiers brought him through distinct phases of expressions and effects. Whether in theme, style or genre, he tirelessly experimented with fresh concepts, techniques and different approach in his art making. In particular, his uncanny and imaginative deployment of light and color provides for a unique visual delivery that puts him distinctly different from his contemporaries.

Low's artistic aspirations are high and demanding on himself. He elaborates: "I always attempt to discover new perspectives. Every painting must emerge from a new experience although this makes the painting process daunting. Even works within the same series must possess differentiation. I am very honest to my work. I don't manipulate the techniques to achieve superficial attractions. To me, artistic expression in their essence is something beautiful."

Low has a unique way of enhancing his work: "I believe in painting at the scene. It enables me to capture the fleeting shifts in the passing seconds, the movements and rhythms, the constant changes in the mood. Driven by a sense of urgency, the artist works spontaneously. All these enable the artist to capture the visual excitement of the moments".

Honesty in beauty, this is what resonates in the art of Low Hai Hong.

Low Hai Hong's Art Journey

1941

Born in Jambi, Indonesia.

1963

Graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Singapore.

1992

Turned full time artist.

1992-1999

Made several trips to Sumatra, Java and Bali and also the East Coast of Malaysia. His Sumatra Collection seethes with the charged atmosphere of the never-ending human ethos in the Sumatran streets; the East Coast Collection offered Low the rare opportunity of confronting the innocuous human struggles and endurance of the fishermen going about their daily routines at dawn in the open sea.

2001

Spent five months as a resident artist at the NAFA studios at the Cité Internationale des Art, Paris. Exploring trips into the inner streets of Paris and visits to Amsterdam's art museums and galleries provided the final emotive trigger that sparked arguably the most creative and important breakthrough of his painting odyssey. His Paris Collection includes his most outstanding works.

2003-2006

Set up personal art studio in Malacca. Afforded him the serenity and peace of mind to fully immerse in the conceptualisation for his works. His Malaysia Collection showcases scenes of old Malacca and Kuala Lumpur that are fast disappearing.

2004

Visited many museums in New York and Washington over a three week stay in the United States. It was a zany introduction to the mystifying beat

of Modern Impressionism Art, resulting in the New York Collection.

2005 May

Held his first solo art exhibition, "Images of Paris" at the Alliance Francaise Singapore. Forty oil paintings were exhibited, featuring scenes of Paris captured during his trip there in 2001.

2006 October

Held a month-long art exhibition 'Scenes of Malaysia' at his art studio in Malacca. The opening ceremony was jointly officiated by the Vice Chairman of Malacca Tourism and Cultural Board and Chairman of Malacca Joint Federation.

2007 - 2014

Started to base his work and activities in Shanghai after numerous invitations by the Chinese artists. Undertook personal art expeditions to many parts of China. His Shanghai Collection consists of art works created from his environment in Shanghai, reflecting the changes of the seasons.

2010 - Present

Elected as President of NAFA Alumni Association.

2012 December

Held a month long solo art exhibition at Song Chuang Art Gallery in Beijing. He created a series of paintings in oil on Chinese rice paper especially for this exhibition.

2013 April

Held a solo art exhibition, 'Scenes of Singapore' at Pan Pacific Hotel in Singapore. The exhibition featured works in oil on canvas and on paper of Singapore landscapes in the 1980s.

2014 May

Held a solo art exhibition, 'A Tale of Two Rivers' at Fullerton Hotel Singapore. The exhibition provided an interesting comparison of his impressions of the Singapore River and the River Seine in Paris. Eighteen oil on paper paintings were exhibited; this was the first time he held an

exhibition showcasing only oil on paper works.

2017 August

Held a solo art exhibition, 'Of Flowers and Trees' at Lim Hak Tai Gallery at NAFA. The exhibition featured 42 oil paintings inspired by his love for nature, with a special series of works based on the Botanic Gardens in Singapore.

Low Hai Hong's Bond with Indonesia



Born in Jambi in 1941, he lived there until he was 5 years old, when his mother brought him and his brothers over to Singapore, while his father remained in Jambi to make a living. He returned to Jambi frequently, visiting family and relatives.



Following the footsteps of his teachers at NAFA, he went on numerous painting trips to Bali with fellow artists in the 1970s to 1990s, often staying months at a time.



In the most recent trip to Jambi and Jakarta in 2017, he brought his extended family to see his hometown and visit relatives.