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The Graduate Thesis

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THE GRADUATE THESIS

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Culminating Project Presented to the Faculty of the
Graduate School of Lindenwood College in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
of Master of Arts

1991



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The Nature of the Thesis Exhibition

About the works of this exhibition, I tried something new and used several different styles to express the subjects. They are Impressionism, Cubism, and some characteristics of expressionism and color field painting. I do not imitate them but they really made an impression on me. This show is an entire year's experiment. I hope I can develop new ideas from them.

I think not only behind national boundaries, but I come to America in my own way. In this way, I have tried different ways to create my painting world and to learn how to get inspirations from real life. You always in my paintings show that I have continued to practice, find and get new ideas.

Western art and eastern art are totally different systems. I am Chinese and Chinese have knowledge because I grew up in a Chinese cultural society, but I also live in a modern world. Eastern art has its own different styles, and I started to know their development and features. In order to create my own style, it is very important, as an artist or a painter. Getting the idea to get new stimuli is a good way to improve.

Description of Work

In the first university I attended, my major was philosophy, not art. I was very interested in arts and followed some artists who taught me to paint during those four years. At that time I drew still life, landscapes and figures, most of them in realistic style. I never tried other ways or directions, even though I knew various styles in modern art.

I think art goes beyond national boundaries, so I came to American to see and learn more. In this year, I have tried different ways to create my painting world and to learn how to get inspirations from real life. The changes in my paintings show that I have continued to absorb, feel and get new ideas.

Western art and eastern art are totally different systems. I can understand Chinese wash drawings because I grew up in a Chinese cultural society, but I also live in a modern time. Modern art has so many different styles, and I wanted to know their developments and features in order to create my own style. It is very important to me to be a painter. Opening the mind to get new stimuli is a good way to improve.

This time I have put eleven works into the thesis exhibition. They present my changes in this year; what I have learned, tried and accomplished. They are not of any exact style because I tried different ways to express my ideas. I get inspirations from my classes, other people's works, TV, newspapers, magazines and things that are in my life.

The Autumn View and Fall were done during the beginning of last semester. I painted them in the same way as I had before. They are of the impressionistic style, and show good weather and autumn's colorful fields. I try to express the seasonal feeling and multitude of colors. It is totally different from Taiwan's autumn where I live because the trees are green throughout the year.

Still Life is influenced by Henri Matisse. I saw some of his originals and was attracted by the decorative style, simplified form and powerful colors. In this work I kept the panel in its original vivid colors, and did not overly describe each objects. What I wanted was to create a simplified, explicit effect.

Out of the Window is a winter's work. The window was frozen. Through the semitransparent surface, the

sunset was gorgeous. The value and color of its light were so various, I tried to express the feeling I received.

The Figure is my new attempt at Cubism. I changed the objects' shapes but did not destroy the structures. The subject and background are still complete. I kept the whole picture in a brown tone.

In The Body is the Prison of the Soul I got the inspiration from my drawing class. The model stood in a cage-like wooden structure, and looked like a limited person who is thinking about how to get free. I used strong, contrasting colors to imply the enormous pressure and struggle in his mind. In fact, the real prison is the material limitation.

Self Portrait is also the Cubism style. I used soft, light colors in the subject. The varied grey background made the figure very obvious.

Taiwan is a sea island. It is easy to see the sea. Fishermen catch fishes at night. The lights in the dark sea gave me a very strong impression. In The Lights of Fishing Boats I tried to express the peaceful, romantic feeling. The bright lights look like stars in the sky.

Curves crossed the panel, meaning sea breezes from every side.

Chinese new year is in lunar January. In this time they will stick scrolls upon which are written good wishes beside the gate. Generally the scrolls' shape is a long rectangle or square which puts on the top. I planned a door image in Congratulations for Chinese New Year. The little square implies a scroll. Red color is the traditional Chinese lucky color, so I painted them in red to express the new years' atmosphere.

In The Colors of the Sea, I used a narrow, long panel to imply the deep of the sea. I painted with acrylic paints and water to create a transparent effect.

Above is all of my works from this year. They are records of my learning process. I will work harder and continue to search for my own style.

DATES AND PLACE OF THESIS EXHIBITION

Figure 1. The Art and View ... 1990

Figure 2. Dates : April 16th — 23rd , 1991

Figure 3. ... 1991

Figure 4. Place : The Harry D. Hendren Gallery

Figure 5. Fine Arts Building ,

Figure 6. Watson and Gamble Streets

Figure 7. The ... of the Soul

Figure 8. ... 1991

Figure 9. ... 1991

Figure 10. ...

Figure 11. ... 1991

Figure 12. ... for Chinese New Year

Figure 13. ... 1991

Figure 14. ... of the Sea

Figure 15. ... 1991

LIST OF WORKS

- Figure 1. The Autumn View , Oil Painting , 1990
- Figure 2. Fall , Oil Painting , 1990
- Figure 3. Still Life , Oil Painting , 1990
- Figure 4. Poinsettia , Oil Painting , 1991
- Figure 5. Out of the Window , Oil Painting , 1991
- Figure 6. The Figure , Oil Painting , 1991
- Figure 7. The Body is the Prison of the Soul
, Oil Painting , 1991
- Figure 8. Self Portrait , Oil Painting , 1991
- Figure 9. The Lights of Fishing Boats
, Oil Painting , 1991
- Figure 10. Congratulations for Chinese New Year
, Oil Painting , 1991
- Figure 11. The colors of the Sea
, Acrylic , 1991



FIGURE 1. THE AUTUMN VIEW
,Oil Painting, 1990



FIGURE 2. EALL
,Oil Painting, 1990



FIGURE 3. STILL LIFE

, Oil Painting, 1990



FIGURE 4. POINSETTIA

, Oil Painting, 1991



FIGURE 5. OUT OF THE WINDOW
, Oil Painting, 1991



FIGURE 6. THE FIGURE
, Oil Painting, 1991



FIGURE 7. THE BODY IS THE PRISON OF THE SOUL
, Oil Painting, 1991



FIGURE 8. SELF PORTRAIT
, Oil Painying, 1991



FIGURE 9. THE LIGHTS OF FISHING BOATS
,Oil Painting , 1991



FIGURE 10. CONGRATULATIONS FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR
,Oil Painting, 1991



FIGURE 11. THE COLORS OF THE SEA
,Acrylic, 1991