

CHUNG CHEN SUN

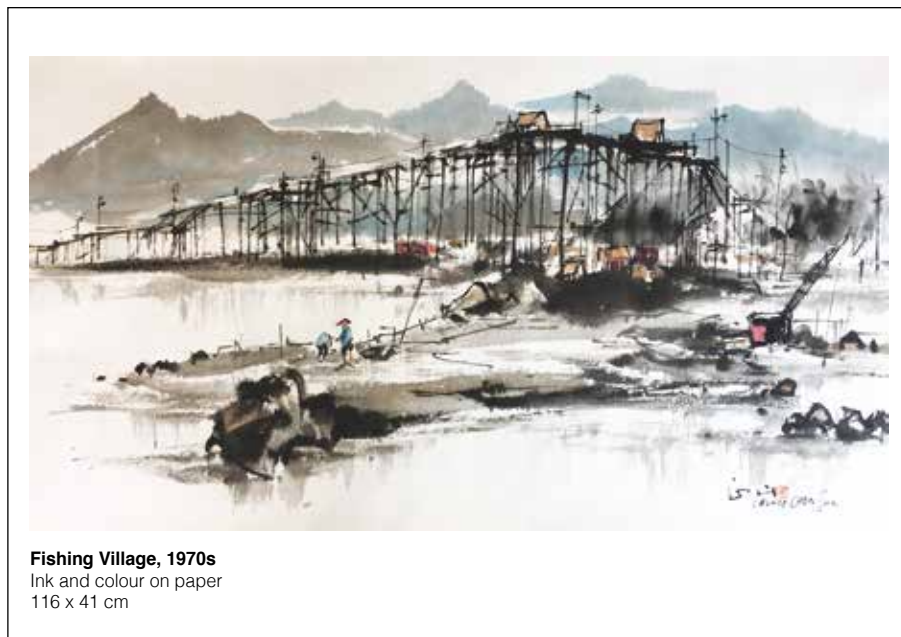
FATHER OF MALAYSIAN MODERN ART EDUCATION

BY HIRANMAYII AWLI MOHANAN

Chung Chen Sun, born in 1935 in Malacca, is an internationally famed and recognised artist as well as art academician. He graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore under the tutelage of artists such as Chen Wen Hsi, Chen Zhong Rui and Cheong Soo Pieng. In 1964, Chung obtained a masters degree in Public Administration and Management from Los Angeles University. He is an artist and educator who is well-versed in the melting pot of multiculturalism. The artist is widely regarded as the “Father of Malaysian Modern Art Education” and “The Father of Malaysian Modern Ink Painting”.

Upon his graduation, he returned to Malaysia and founded the Malaysian Institute of Art in 1967 which he was the principal/president from 1967 until 1999. With that, Chung spearheaded art education in Malaysia. Today, MIA is one of the largest art and creative institutions in the Southeast Asian region. Besides that, he had founded and helped establish five art institutions in Malaysia and China. He also formed the International Contemporary Ink Painting Association in 1982. In 1992, he was honoured as one of the world’s Top 10 Hakka Personalities. In 2005, the Five Decades of Chung Chen Sun exhibition was held at the National Art Gallery, and in 2007, the international Art Expo Malaysia honoured him with a Tribute Pavilion.

After his studies at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore (1953-55), Chung did his Masters in Public Administration at the University of San Francisco, USA (1984-1986). He has participated in solo exhibitions in Taiwan, China, Singapore,



Fishing Village, 1970s
Ink and colour on paper
116 x 41 cm

Holland and Thailand since his first solo in Kuala Lumpur in 1964. It was only in 2009 that he held his homecoming solo in Malacca. He is also actively engaged in international art education exchanges and has held positions like co-chairman and vice-chairman of the Asia Pacific Art Education Association. When he was teaching at the Chinese Cultural University in Taiwan in 1981, he founded the International Contemporary Ink Painting Association to promote this form of art, ink painting.

Chung was diligent in the study of Eastern and Western paintings, with unstoppable brushstrokes and brilliant hands, modelling the hallmarks of a gifted painter. The artist has worked in the field of ink painting for decades and has brilliantly integrated the essence

of Chinese and Western painting. He is committed to promoting the modernisation of Chinese ink painting in the Nanyang region. Chung’s forte lies in ink painting and he is very diverse in his subject matters, creating works of landscape, figures and still life. He combines calligraphy with a palette of Western oil painting, evident mostly in his figurative works. The artist has a flair for combining varied elements, carefully composing them and infusing his mastery of lines and effects into his works. Throughout his journey in painting, he has been constantly seeking breakthroughs. His works have been exhibited in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, India, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, United States, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil. He has held 17 solo exhibitions over the years.