

CHUNG CHEN SUN

MAESTRO OF CHINESE INK PAINTING

BY HIRANMAYII AWLI MOHANAN



Chung Chen Sun is a well-known artist and art educator who was born in Melaka, Malaysia, in 1935. Upon graduating from Singapore's Nanyang School of Fine Arts, he earned a master's degree in public administration and management from Los Angeles University in the 1960's.

In 1967, he returned to Malaysia and established the Malaysian Institute of Art (MIA), which pioneered art education in the country. MIA is now one of the largest art and creative institutions in South East Asia.

He was also involved in international art education exchanges, serving as Co-Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Asia Pacific Art Education Association. In 1981, while teaching at the Chinese Culture University in Taiwan, he established the International Contemporary Ink Painting Association where he devoted his time and worked tirelessly to modernise Chinese ink painting and to promote the development of Malaysian Chinese culture and facilitate international exchanges. In recent years, he also assisted in the establishment of modern art and design education in China.

Chung Chen Sun
Ink and colors on paper
Oil on canvas
108 x 21 cm



Chung Chen Sun
Fishing Village, 1970's
Ink and colour on paper
77 x 116 cm



Chung Chen Sun
Tin Mine, 1970's
Ink and colour on paper
41 x 116 cm



Chung Chen Sun
Nude
Ink and colour on paper
116 x 41 cm

The artist has constantly been searching for a breakthrough in his artistic path. His art has been exhibited in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, India, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil, among other places. Over the years, he has had 17 solo exhibits.

He was the President of the Malaysian Chinese Culture Society and the Principal of the Malaysian Institute of Art. In 1977, he was conferred PPN by DYMM Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Dipertuan Agong, His Majesty the King Of Malaysia.

He was awarded the "Cultural & Art Highest Merit Prize" by The Chinese Cultural Association in Taipei, Taiwan in 1984. He was chosen for The "International Celebrity Collection," which was published in Cambridge, UK, in 1985. Chung was eventually named "One of the Chosen Ten Outstanding Hakka Personalities of the World" in 1992. He was named "Outstanding Master" in International Chinese Calligraphy & Painting by the National Culture Organisation of Taiwan in 1995. He is regarded as one of the world's 100 most important Chinese artists, and the China National Academy of Fine Arts ranks him among the top 50. Backdrop, his solo exhibition, was displayed at PINKGUY art gallery in 2018.

Dr. Chung Chen Sun is an ink painting maestro. He has a proclivity towards portraying good fortune, according to Chinese culture through the forms of birds. The many elements that he infuses into his paintings are composed with care, in a manner that demonstrates his command of lines and effects.

ABDUL LATIFF MOHIDIN'S

WORKS ON PAPER

BY HIRANMAYII AWLI MOHANAN



Maestro Abdul Latiff Mohidin was born on Aug 20, 1941 in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan and received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Lenggeng. He continued his studies at Kota Raja Malay School and Mercantile Institution, Singapore. Then in 1954, he joined Seremban's King George V School and received his Cambridge certificate in 1959. Latiff studied at the Hochschule für Bildende Kunst in Berlin, Germany for four years in the 1960's on a government sponsorship programme of the Federal Republic of Germany. It was natural that his early works mimicked German expressionism. The year 1969 was when Latiff furthered his studies in printmaking at the Atelier La Courrier, Paris. In the same year, he received a John D. Rockefeller III scholarship to take up the same course at the Pratt Graphic Centre, New York, US.

It was also in the 1960's that he concurrently focused on poetry writing and continued with his wondrous prose while travelling extensively through to the 1970's. His poetry emanates richness in imagery and metaphors. It is amazing how his expressions brought an air of freshness

to the development of poetry in our country. To date, Latiff has produced an impressive repertoire of seven anthologies — Sungai Mekong, Kembara Malam, Wayang Pak Dalang, Pesisir Waktu, Serpihan Dari Pedalaman, Rawa-Rawa dan Sajak-Sajak Dinihari. He has also produced three books thus far, *Garis*, *Catatan Latiff Mohidin* and *Catatan Dua Baris*. His works have been translated into English, Mandarin, German, Italian, Danish and Tamil.

Through a series of masterpieces such as the renowned *Pago-Pago*, *Mindscape*, *Voyage* and *Langkawi*, Latiff has been recognised as one of the country's prominent and most versatile painters. He has showcased his works across Asia and Europe, at more than 30 solo exhibitions. Latiff has embodied the true meaning of an artist, having the talent to draw, paint, write and sculpt. His innate talent for art and developed skills have rendered him like a chameleon, switching between genres like second nature. He continued to amaze the world by translating works like *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam, poetry of Jalaluddin Rumi, *Tao Te Ching* of Lao Tzu, *Gitanjali* Tagore and *Faust* Goethe.

His Accomplishments

Latiff's most recent accomplishment was when his renowned Pago-Pago Series (1960-1969) headlined a mega three-month exhibition held at the prestigious Pompidou Centre in Paris in 2018, a collaborative organisation by the National Gallery Singapore and Pompidou. Latiff was awarded a major Retrospective at the National Art Gallery Malaysia in December 2012 to June 2013, his second. His art studies were at the Hochschule fur Bildende Kunst in West Berlin. He won the John D. Rockefeller III Fellowship to study at Pratt Institute in New York (1965), and a French scholarship to study printmaking at the Atelier Lacouriere-Frelaut in Paris (1969). He also won 2nd Prize (Graphics) in the 1968 Salon Malaysia. In literature, he won the SEA Write Award twice (1984 and 1986) and the Malaysian Literary Awards from 1972 to 1976, and he was also appointed a guest writer at Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka in 1988.



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Siri Langkawi (USM), 1979
Mixed Media on paper
19 x 10.5 cm



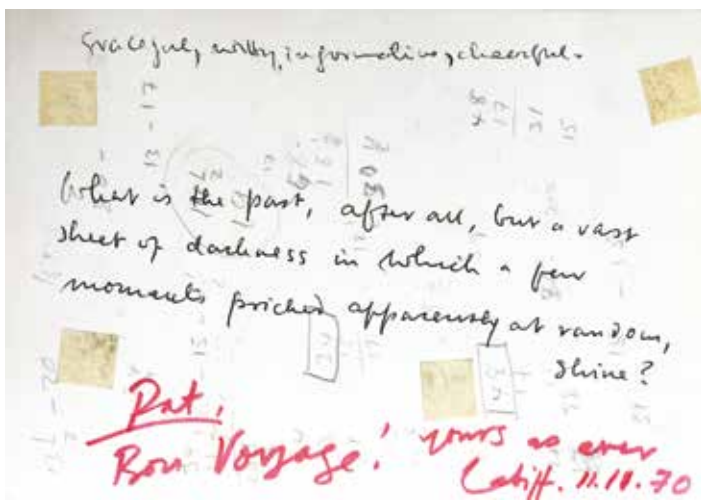
Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Siri Pago Pago, Bangkok (1966)
Pen on paper
16 x 10.5 cm



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Siri Pago Pago 'Ubud' 1967
Mixed media on paper
16.4 x 9



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Siri Pago Pago, 1966
Pen on paper
15 x 10.5 cm



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Siri Pago Pago, 1966
Pen on paper
15 x 10.5 cm
Formerly in the collection of Patrick J Murphy Verso



His Oeuvre

As an artist, Latiff has been active since 1951 and has shaped and moulded the art scene in Malaysia with his bodies of work. The artist's oeuvre stretches from modern painting to poetry and literature. From as early as the 1970's when he emerged onto the Malaysian art and literary scene with the collective, Kumpulan Anak Alam (Collective of Children of Nature) which counted amongst their activities performances and poetry recitals. Latiff has consistently found inspiration in nature. His breakout series of visual works, Pago-Pago, focusing on nature and monuments in Southeast Asia. More conceptual works followed, before the Voyages series of the 2000's where he maintains an insatiable curiosity about the world around him.



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
New York, 1969
Etching 8/13
30cm x 21cm

Throughout his career, Mohidin has been known for his exploration of the relationship between art and nature, as well as his use of traditional Malay forms and motifs. His works on paper are no exception, with each piece displaying a remarkable attention to detail and a deep reverence for the natural world.

One of Mohidin's most striking works on paper is his series of drawings titled "Pago-Pago" (1963-1965). These intricate black and white drawings depict fantastical landscapes, populated by strange creatures and intricate geometric patterns. Each drawing is a testament to Mohidin's incredible skill as a draughtsman, as well as his boundless imagination. Another notable work on paper by Mohidin is his "Ghazal" series (1977-1981). These works are a fusion of poetry and visual art, with each drawing incorporating calligraphic text alongside intricate geometric patterns and organic forms. The result is a series of works that are simultaneously beautiful and deeply meaningful, exploring themes of spirituality, identity, and the natural world.

Perhaps the most striking thing about Mohidin's works on paper is the way in which they reflect his deep connection to the natural world. His use of organic forms and motifs is a testament to his love of nature, as well as his belief in the importance of preserving the environment for future generations. Through his exploration of traditional Malay forms and motifs, as well as his deep connection to the natural world, Mohidin has created a body of work that is both beautiful and deeply meaningful. His contributions to the world of art have cemented his place as one of Malaysia's most celebrated artists, and his works on paper remain a testament to his enduring legacy.



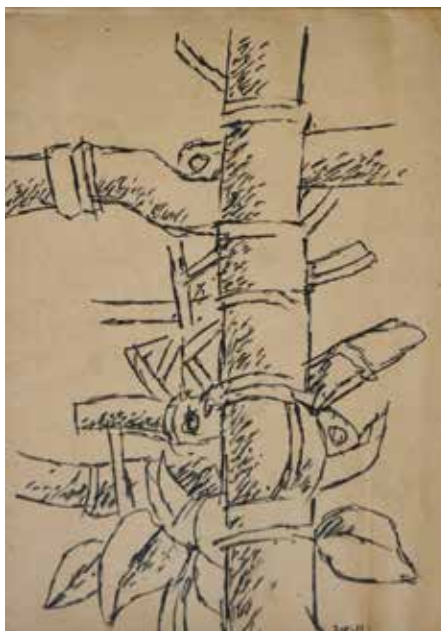
Abdul Latiff Mohidin
"Pago-Pago Series" (1967)
Mixed Media on Paper
9.5cm x 12.5cm



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Gelombang, 1993
Mixed media on paper
20 x 29 cm



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Pago-Pago Series "Kelantanese Harlequin", 1968
Mixed media on paper
24 x 16 cm



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Pago Pago - Bamboo I, 1968
Felt Pen on Paper
22cm X 16.5cm



Abdul Latiff Mohidin
Zwischen Zwei Welten (In Between Two Worlds) 1966
Ink on paper
16 x 11.5 cm