

**Singapore Art Museum presents  
Tze Peng (Zi Ping)**

**A visual journey through the life and work of artist Lim Tze Peng, the exhibition  
assembles a pictorial range of 65 of the artist's donated works  
across three mediums - oil, ink and calligraphy**

(15 December 2003) Singapore Art Museum proudly presents Tze Peng (Zi Ping), a journey through the artistic career of recent Cultural Medallion winner Lim Tze Peng, from 4 December 2003 to 22 February 2004.

A monumental exhibition of 65 works, featuring 7 calligraphic works, 20 oils on canvas and 38 ink paintings, Tze Peng (Zi Ping) is a selection of works from the artist's earlier donations to the Singapore Art Museum as well as a new gift of 231 works by both the artist and his patrons, Mr and Mrs Koh Seow Chuan. The donation will be received by the Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, Dr Lee Boon Yang, on behalf of the Museum at the exhibition opening and official donation ceremony held at the Singapore Art Museum on 16 December 2003, 7.00pm.

A teacher by training and profession, Lim Tze Peng, 83, is a self-taught and self-made artist renowned for his extensive works featuring Singapore's landscapes just before urban redevelopment. The artist's works include paintings of Chinatown, Geylang lantern merchants, barber shops and fortune tellers, Pulau Ubin as well as the eponymous Singapore River. Collectively, they capture the cultural diversity of this city-state, and have remained compelling images in Singapore art today.

Says Mr Kwok Kian Chow, Director, Singapore Art Museum, "As the custodian of a nation's art heritage, Singapore Art Museum is proud to be the recipient of 231 works by Lim Tze Peng and his patrons, Mr and Mrs Koh Seow Chuan. Through this donation, the artist shares with us his journey and aspirations reflected in his calligraphy, ink and oil paintings, output of an artistic career spanning some six decades."

Adds Mr Kwok on the exhibition, "Over 60 works will be on display highlighting progressive moments in the prolific artist's practice. Indeed, Tze Peng has produced many moments worthy of display and recognition. Along with the exhibition catalogue, the curator and essayists have assembled what would be a visual tapestry that reconstructs history and culture through the eyes of the artist."

Says Mr Koh Seow Chuan, donor and member of National Heritage Board, "This quiet, unassuming artist has left with us so many wonderful works of art that reveals his passion for humanity and for nature. We leave these in the good hands of curatorial expertise at the Singapore Art Museum for its scholarship, display and care. This exhibition and donation, in turn, will be another encouragement for Lim Tze Peng to scale even greater heights."

Indeed it is through the depiction of his surroundings that Lim Tze Peng has documented the significant reminders of nature and humanity worthy of visual or aesthetic reverence. Says artist Lim Tze Peng on his art, " It is vital for an artist to integrate his cultural heritage with the popular culture in his work and to make an effort to let the whole world understand his art. A vast majority of the donated works that you see in the exhibition are dedicated to capturing the vibrancy of our surroundings, whether it be scenes of early Singapore, the rustic charms of Bali or lush Thai forests. I hope to share these treasured memories with future generations."

Often recognised as an everyday painter for his efforts in depicting the Singaporean landscapes, Lim Tze Peng has been travelling and painting diligently for some 60 years, moving with great ease amongst the different mediums, calligraphy, oil and Chinese ink painting to capture the presence of his immediate environment. While ink may be the artist's best-known medium, a large part of the exhibition has been dedicated to the artist's recent oils, juxtaposing these works with monumental calligraphy in a reverence of the artist's experimental spirit in marrying the best of western art with traditional Chinese styles.

"In my paintings, the employment of lines is strongly influenced by the Chinese calligraphic stroke, the use of lines is the core characteristic of our art culture which we should emphasize and enhance," says Lim Tze Peng.

Adds Ms Bridget Tracy Tan, curator of the exhibition, "Painting in ink and colour, as well as oil, Lim Tze Peng's works are like annotations of the ordinary scenes around us. His use of traditional medium is tempered with his energetic visions; describing and prescribing space. Time spent with the exhibition reveals a man determined to capture the essence of things around him, knowing visual charisma is brought by sounds, smells and passage. These images, like the affable artist, speak emotively and with conviction."

A visual journey through Lim Tze Peng's life and art, Tze Peng (Zi Ping) is a cultural passage through the inner world of the artist, moving across different time and space.

The Singapore Art Museum wishes to thank Mr and Mrs Koh Seow Chuan and Mr Lim Tze Peng for their generous donation towards the Museum's collection and support towards the exhibition.

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Exhibition opens to public : 4 December 2003 to 22 February 2004

Monday to Sunday : 10am to 7pm, with extended hours and free admission on  
Fridays from 6pm to 9pm

Singapore Art Museum is located at 71 Bras Basah Road (ex SJI), a 10-min walk from City Hall and Dhoby Ghaut MRT stations.

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