

Sotheby's S|2 Presents

Eternal Water: Wucius Wong

The First Solo Gallery Exhibition for the Living Hong Kong Legend in Nearly a Decade

Public Exhibition 18 -30 October, 2017

Sotheby's Hong Kong Gallery

SPECIAL EVENT

In Dialogue with Wucius Wong

21 October, Saturday

2pm and 3pm

A public talk with the artist in English and Chinese with Katherine Don, Head of Contemporary Ink Art, Sotheby's and Josh Yiu, Director, Art Museum at the Chinese University of Hong Kong



Wucius Wong, *Mountains and Rivers of the Mind*, 2017, ink and colour on paper, 142 x 69 cm (each panel)

Hong Kong, 13 September 2017

Sotheby's S2 is honoured to present ***Eternal Water***, a selling exhibition of works by the critically acclaimed Hong Kong painter Wucius Wong, from 18 to 30 October at its Hong Kong Gallery. Wucius Wong is recognised as a trail-blazing modernist of ink painting in Hong Kong, and is also revered for his masterful synthesis of traditional Chinese aesthetics with western culture and contemporary design. Presenting over 30 works spanning six decades of his career, the exhibition depicts water in its varying forms, all with lyrical, philosophical undertones, and a style which encapsulates landscape and geometric motifs. All works are arranged thematically by the artist and attributed to the qualities of water: *movement, tranquillity, confluence, diversion and transformation*. Together, the exhibition provides a retrospective of artistic exploration and a metaphorical portrait of the artist's cultural identity, tracing the fluidity of influence and innovation in painting philosophies.

***Water – constantly seeking lower levels,
actually representing the highest virtue –
has no definite shape and can morph into many different forms,
to become springs and falls, pools and lakes,
streams and rivers, seas and oceans.***

- Wucius Wong

Katherine Don, Head of Contemporary Ink Art, Sotheby's Asia, states, “Contemporary ink art is a category seen through the lens of artists inspired by or trained in ink painting, a medium that originated in China thousands of years ago and is distinguished for its use of ink, brush and calligraphic principle. For centuries, artists have departed from the bonds of tradition, pushed the boundaries of interpretation, and consistently rejuvenated a venerated art form. Wucius Wong is an outspoken leader of this charge.

As this exhibition was being prepared, Wucius Wong received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Hong Kong Arts and Development Council in May 2017. We congratulate him on receiving such a prestigious honour, just one of many recognitions bestowed upon this prolific octogenarian.”

➤ **WATCH VIDEO:** <http://bit.ly/2xZGKsl>

About the Artist

Born in 1936 in Humen, Guangdong, Wucius Wong was raised and educated in Hong Kong. He studied traditional ink painting with Lui Shou Kwan and received a BFA and MFA in art and design from the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore. Throughout his time abroad, he was exposed to the works of Itten, Klee, Kandinsky and Albers, which catalysed a departure from the Chinese tradition, propelling him towards an arrival at geometric landscapes and ink paintings in pure abstraction.

Simultaneously, he continued to create landscapes that capture the monumental grandeur of Song dynasty paintings and emphasise the lighting techniques found in Western oil paintings. Wong's works are part of prominent international collections, including the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Shanghai Art Museum, British Museum, University of Oxford's Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, The Art Institute of Chicago, Cleveland Museum of Art, Harvard University's Arthur M. Sackler Museum, San Francisco Asian Art Museum, Berlin Museum of Asian Art, and the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne.

Known for his influential contribution to art, he is the recipient of many important honours; Wong was awarded the Emeritus Fellowship by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 1998, received the Bronze Bauhinia Star Medal for achievement in ink painting in 2007 from the HKSAR Government, was an Asia Society Art Gala Honoree in 2015, and most recently achieved the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Visual Arts from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 2017.

Today, Wong is an Adjunct Professor of the Fine Arts Department at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, an Executive Member of the Chinese Painting Institute in Beijing, and an Honorary Museum Expert Advisor to the Leisure and Culture Department of the Hong Kong Government.

Exhibition Highlights



Half Mountain, 1973
ink and colour on paper
174 x 95 cm



Ancient Dream No. 3, 1991
ink and colour on paper
63 x 47 cm



River of the Heart No. 4
ink and colour on paper
136 x 66 cm



Lake Light No. 16, 1990
ink and colour on paper, 66 x 140 cm

Image download:

Dropbox: <https://goo.gl/tK5gTh> or Baidu Pan: <https://pan.baidu.com/s/1o7GY75g> (PIN: rtpa)

NOTES TO EDITORS

I) EXHIBITION DETAILS

Date and Opening Hours

18 – 30 October 2017

Monday - Friday: 10am – 6pm

Saturday: 11am – 5pm

Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

Venue

Sotheby's Hong Kong Gallery, 5/F, One Pacific

Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong

Enquiries

(852) 2822 5566

II) ABOUT SOTHEBY'S HONG KONG GALLERY

Sotheby's Hong Kong Gallery is a state-of-the-art exhibition space in Asia's art capital. Opened in May 2012, this gallery of more than 15,000 square feet has mounted diverse exhibitions including Asian and international modern and contemporary art, as well as Chinese ceramics, bonsai, 19th-century European decorative arts, sculpture and Asian comic manuscripts. The gallery also presents educational programmes, auctions, and cultural events. As the Asian home to Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wines, Sotheby's Gallery also offers year-round retail opportunities.

III) ABOUT S|2

The global vision for S|2 to stage secondary market exhibitions with a particular focus on artists who have been celebrated art historically but are under-recognised by the market. The aim of the gallery's new program is to present the work of artists who may be undervalued by the market, but remain art historically important and influential. The London program for 2017 comprises a series of concurrent solo exhibitions - one in the upper gallery, and one in the lower gallery - and includes Li Yuan-Chia, Yuko Nasaka, Ibrahim El-Salahi and William Turnbull. The S|2 team has also organized a number of pop-up exhibitions in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Paris and Hong Kong. In addition to gallery programming, the S|2 team also facilitates bespoke private acquisitions and sales. Learn more at <http://www.sothebys.com/S2>

IV) FOR MORE NEWS FROM SOTHEBY'S

News & Video: www.sothebys.com/en/news-video.html

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Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).