THE ART OF HENRY WO YUE-KEE

Henry Wo Yue-Kee (Hu Yuji) subtly fuses influences from both the Eastern and Western worlds in his ink and color paintings on paper. With his strong heritage of Oriental brushwork, Wo combines traditional Chinese principles with his own personal poetry. His free, translucent washes are punctuated with delicate linear accents and poetic transformations of birds, fish, and flowers. Ethereal light bathes his pictures and gives his work a quivering life.

Born in Guangdong, China, Wo studied art during his early years in China and Hong Kong with Zhao Shao'ang (Chao Shao-An). Wo moved to the United States with his wife and five children in 1975. While he was based at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia, he revisited Hong Kong and China many times to sketch and paint the Grand Canal in the Hangzhou and Suzhou regions, River Li in Quilin, and Huang Mountain in Anhui Province. He now lives in Hong Kong with his wife and continues to foster his love of painting and teaching.

Wo is an admirer of nature. His paintings are the result of his effort to share with others the moment of joy he experiences when he encounters the myriad phenomena of nature. Wo’s mastery of the brush and paint has enabled him to freely express the poetic mood of the beautiful things he encounters and his own untrammelled spirit through the depiction of living creatures, objects, and scenes found in nature. Among the more familiar themes of his paintings are birds, flowers, landscapes, plants, and animals. The dexterity of Wo’s brush reflects the power of his magic touch, which turns these common themes from the material world into symbols of happiness, friendliness, peace, gentleness, tranquility, harmony, and other good qualities found in nature. Every painting of Wo is a poem in praise of nature. While the poet glorifies nature in words, Wo praises the goodness of nature in paint.

Wo’s paintings have been exhibited in Canada, Australia, Asia, and the United States. His works are included in the collections of Peking University, China; Lingnan Art Museum of Dongguan, China; Hong Kong Museum of Art and Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong; Yangmingshan Museum, Taiwan; NUS Museum, Singapore; Birmingham Museum of Art and Mobile Museum of Art, Alabama; Asian Art Museum, California; Lyman Allyn Art Museum, Connecticut; Honolulu Museum of Art, Hawaii; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Missouri; Amherst College, Massachusetts; Springfield Art Museum, Montana; the State Museum of Pennsylvania, among others.