

REFLECTION OF CHINESE INK BRUSH PAINTING DEMONSTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

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The vision of Asian Programs Director and Associate Vice President for International Partnerships, Phylis Lan Lin (藍采風), Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, University of Indianapolis, is to bring Asia and the world to Indianapolis and Indianapolis to Asia and the world through multi-faceted academic exchange and cultural programs. The University's mission is to prepare its graduates for effective, responsible, and articulate membership in the complex societies in which they live and serve, and for excellence and leadership in their personal and professional lives. The programs of the inaugural International Education Month at the University of Indianapolis, initiated by Professor Lin and colleagues, promoted this mission and enriched the university and community's intellectual life and international life, pillars of success in our 21st century.

Central to the mission of International Partnerships are exchanges and cultural programs that introduce students and the Indianapolis community to exemplars of global excellence across disciplines. A remarkable International Education Month program introduced students, faculty and community friends to the world-renowned artistry of Master Carol Ng Yuet-Lau (伍月柳), University of Indianapolis students, many of whom are first generation college students, now have a personal invitation to further explore the world of Chinese Ink Brush Painting and engage in study abroad opportunities at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Master Carol Ng Yuet-Lau's Chinese Ink Brush Painting Lectures and Demonstrations sparked the interest and imagination of students, faculty and community friends at two well attended programs. Professor Lin and two of Master Ng's long-time students, Emily Ho and Yvonne Chow, assisted and complimented Master Carol's spellbinding ink brush painting demonstration. The diverse audience drew closer, all eyes riveted on the splashes and brush strokes of color on the white canvases, one transformed into a beautiful peony, the other into a mountainous landscape. Professor Lin's commentary on the deeper meaning, philosophy, spirituality and significance of Master Carol's work, graciously transported the audience through thousands of years of Chinese painting and philosophy. The images materializing before the audiences' eyes gradually became a tangible link to past and present masters, to Master Carol's professors, and the Lingnan School. Encouraged to come even closer, to ask questions, we were absorbing concepts integral to the understanding of the artistry and philosophy inherent in the painting, poetry and calligraphy

of ancient Chinese art. In attendance were leaders of the Indianapolis Association of Chinese Americans, international community friends and students and faculty from across the university. At the morning demonstration, Mandarin students and teachers of Mandarin in the fourth and fifth grades, at the International School of Indiana, were honored to receive Master Carol's painting as a gift for their school. Master Carol's demonstration paintings and lecture met with enthusiastic applause at both demonstrations. Asked by a student to name her biggest accomplishment as an artist, she answered: When people enjoy her painting, just as an actor enjoys the applause of an audience. She added that her servant attitude informs her drive to continue creating and sharing her paintings, poems and calligraphy.

Whether long time connoisseurs of Chinese art, or completely new to the genre, Master Carol's audiences in Indianapolis were enriched beyond expectations through a multi-sensory demonstration. The work of art being created before our eyes, skillfully, seemingly effortlessly, was accompanied by the rich narrative that guided us through the centuries of symbolism, philosophy, and technical skill inherent in Master Carol's painting of the peony and the mountainous landscape. We became acquainted with her as both a highly respected exponent of the Lingnan School, and as very much her own, beautifully free, accomplished artist and Master teacher. It was inspiring to hear her story, of how she came to painting as an adult, following a career in nursing, and dedicated herself wholeheartedly to her studies with her mentor teachers. Master Carol's formidable technical skills and harmonious artistic grace and philosophy, endear her to diverse audiences around the world. In this audience, our eyes and hearts were opened to the layers of meaning to be found in Chinese art, past and present.

At the University of Indianapolis, Master Carol's paintings of the peony and mountain landscape will be on display for all to admire in the executive offices of the Provost, together with the hope that she will soon return – and that students and faculty will visit her in Hong Kong. The International School of Indianapolis students of Mandarin, their families and teachers, are also invited to carry forward the wisdom and artistry imparted by Master Carol and Professor Lin.

(Master Ng Yuet Lau's Web site: <http://www.ngyuetlau.hk/eng/info.html>)



Master Ng's calligraphy scroll



Masterpiece



Landscape demo presented to University of Indianapolis

CHINESE PROVERBS(1)

"The wisdom of nations lies in their proverbs, which are brief and pithy. Collect and learn them; they are notable measures of directions for human life; you have much in little; they save time in speaking; and upon occasion may be the fullest and safest answer." -William Penn



Dr. Patrick Lau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. after high school. He retired from the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System where he served as Chief Radiologist and moved to Florida with his wife in 2011. He was an active member & contributor of IACA and ICMA while in Indiana. Dr. Lau is also a scholar of art and literature and a prolific writer; he has been a dedicated columnist for Indy Asian American Times since 2010.

Examples of Chinese proverbs followed by their English equivalents in parenthesis are: 我生待明日, 萬事成蹉跎 (Procrastination is the thief of time); 冰凍三尺, 非一日之寒 (Rome was not built in a day); 一言既出, 駟馬難追 (A word spoken is past recalling); 留得青山在, 不怕沒柴燒 (While there's life there's hope); 種瓜得瓜, 種豆得豆 (You reap what you sow); 鵝蚌相爭, 漁翁得利 (The wolf has a winning game when the shepherds quarrel); 天網恢恢, 疏而不漏 (Heaven's vengeance is slow but sure); 積少成多 (Many a little makes a mickle); 人不可貌相 (You cannot judge a book by its cover); 做人誠信為本 (Honesty is the best policy); 不入虎穴, 焉得虎子 (Nothing ventured, nothing gained); 塞翁失馬, 焉知非福 (A blessing in disguise); 百聞不如一見 (Seeing is believing); 知足常樂 (A contented mind is a perpetual feast); 欲速則不達 (Haste makes waste); and 以其人之道還治其人之身 (Pay someone back in his own coin).

人算不如天算 (Man proposes, God disposes); 事實勝於雄辯 (Actions speak louder than words); 失敗是成功之母 (Failure is the mother of success); 入鄉隨俗 (In Rome do as the Roman do); 天無絕人之路 (When God closes a door, He opens another); 花開堪折直需折 (Gather ye rosebuds while ye may); 物以類聚 (Birds of a feather flock together); 捷足先登 (The early bird gets the worm); 熟能生巧 (Practice makes perfect); 無火不生煙 (There's no smoke without fire); 一箭雙雕 (Kill two birds with one stone); 愛屋及烏 (Love me, love my dog); 既往不咎 (Let bygones be bygones); 有志竟成 (Nothing is impossible to a willing mind); 歲月不居人 (Time and tide wait for no man); 情人眼裡出西施 (Beauty is in the eye of the beholder); 腳踏實地 (Keep your feet on the ground); 驕兵必敗 (Pride goes before a fall); 五十步笑百步 (The pot called the kettle black); 殺雞取卵 (Kill the goose that lays the golden eggs); 自作自受 (As you make your bed, so you must lie in it); 新官上任三把火 (New brooms sweep clean); 欲加之罪, 何患無辭 (Give a dog a bad name and hang him); 人有悲歡離合, 月有陰晴圓缺 (Every flow must have its ebb); and 前事不忘後事之師 (Experience is the best teacher).

小題大作 (Making a mountain out of a molehill); 英雄所見略同 (Great minds think alike); 旁觀者清, 當局者迷 (Lookers-on see

most of the game); 驚弓之鳥 (A burnt child dreads fire); 亡羊補牢, 時猶未晚 (It is never too late to mend); 未雨綢繆 (Keep something for a rainy day); 謀事在人, 成事在天 (Man proposes, God disposes); 萬丈高樓平地起 (Great oaks from little acorns grow); 識時務者為俊傑 (It is as well to know which way the wind blows); 好心有好報 (One good turn deserves another); 先下手為強 (The first blow is half the battle); 人微言輕 (A poor man's tale cannot be heard); 失之毫釐, 差之千里 (A miss is as good as a mile); 不要以貌取人 (Never judge by appearances); 三思而後行 (Look before you leap); 智者千慮必有一失 (Even homer sometimes nods); 不經一事, 不長一智 (Experience is the mother of wisdom); 三十六計走為上策 (One pair of heels is often worth two pairs of hands); 活到老學到老 (One is never too old to learn); 屋漏更兼連夜雨 (Misfortunes never come singly); 剪草除根 (Cut the grass and remove the root); 一不做, 二不休 (Go the whole hog); and 有其父必有其子 (Like father, like son).

一朝被蛇咬, 十年怕井繩 (A burnt child dreads the fire); 牛不飲水, 不能按牛頭低 (You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink); 人善被人欺, 馬善被人騎 (All lay loads on a willing horse); 又要馬兒好, 又要馬兒不吃草 (You can't have your cake and eat it too); 馬不知臉長 (Men are blind in their own cause); 玩火者必自焚 (If you play with fire, you get burned); 以毒攻毒 (Fight fire with fire); 上樑不正下樑歪 (A crooked stick will have a crooked shadow); 萬事起頭難 (All things are difficult before they are easy); 浪子回頭金不換 (A reformed rake makes the best husband); 否極泰來 (When things are at the worst they begin to mend); 見微知著 (A straw shows which way the wind blows). 家醜不外揚 (Don't wash your dirty linen in public); 信人者人恆信之 (Trust men and they will be true to you); 滴水穿石 (Constant dripping wears away the stone); and 量入為出 (Cut your coat according to your cloth.)

Source: Internet



East meets West Masterpiece



Master Ng with students and young audience



Master Ng demonstrating her technique