

“Qī Shí” Raymond Fung: A Retrospective - In Between Art and Architecture

11th February to 27th February, 2023 | 10:00 – 20:00

Arts Pavilion, West Kowloon Cultural District



Qī Shí, 2022, 90x630cm

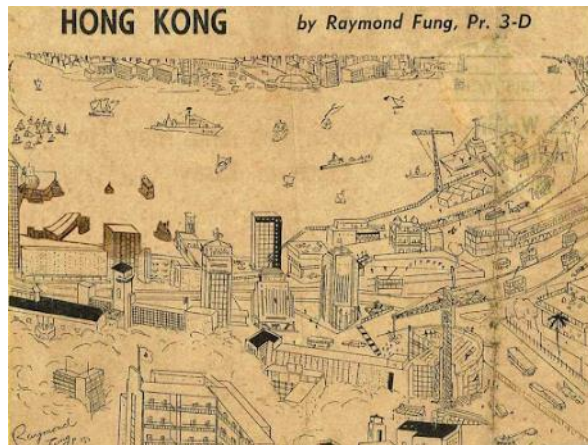
Looking back at the seven decades that have come to pass, it would seem that life is full of possibilities, and a day lived with joy is indeed a day worth living.

The exhibition "Qī Shí" picks up Raymond Fung's memories of the past seven decades. Analogous to a ping pong match, in between the back and forth of a game, one gets to savour his dialogue on his path in between architecture and art. The exhibition covers paintings, large-scale installations, architecture models, sculptures, rapidographs and other works; in terms of architecture, 24 meaningful architectural works have been selected for display out of over 70 projects he had taken part in; rare rapidographs from his early days include the "Island North" from 1985 and two mansion manuscripts from 1978. Also on display in the venue are models of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade Beautification Project and the Archivilla, where Raymond's perspective and persistence in architecture have been illustrated through these designs.

In terms of installations, the "Dialogue with Wu Guanzhong", a light and shadow play previously exhibited at the Hong Kong Museum of Art has been transformed into "Ping Pong", an installation that echoes with the exhibition theme of being in between architecture and art. Seven pieces of roof tiles that have been "picked up" from the installation are rearranged at the entrance, each representing an individual decade of his life journey.

In terms of paintings, the exhibition covers Raymond's ink paintings since the 60s, including his earliest work - the "Waterfall" (1971), which is a piece influenced by traditional ink painting. In the 70s, his traditional ink painting style was transformed into the freehand form of the Lingnan school; and in the 80s, with his first solo exhibition the "Emergence" held at the The Landmark in 1985 where his work "Beyond Horizon" was displayed, he began entering an exploratory stage in art, as well as a critical turning point in his life. Since then, Raymond has gradually developed his own artistic style crystallised from his past experiences, such has been evident in his works "The Great Land Romance" (1989) and "The Great Land Series No.19" (1992). His creations have always directly reflected his feelings and values, including a series of depictions of Hong Kong illustrating the concept of being "born and bred" here in his hometown, "Between Heaven and Earth" (2015), "Here is Double Heaven" (2015) and "Sam Pui Chau" (2017) are clear evidences of such sentiment. In addition to the aforesaid, Raymond's recent works have also focused on the reflections on the epoch of "Anthropocene" which has been illustrated in his works of "Global Warming", the "Breathing Series" and the "Life Series", all of which have employed creative and experimental media to interpret universal values.

Furthermore, the focus and centre-piece of this exhibition - a painting made up of seven individual panels named "Qī Shí", has been created by Raymond to mark his seventieth birthday. The aforementioned piece which is measured at more than 6 metres in length will be displayed along the corridor at the entrance, where one can stroll through and feel every stroke of the brush and every drop of ink while embracing the passage of time. The said painting echoes with the seven pieces of tiles that have been "picked up" from the installation "Ping Pong", representing the past seven decades of his life. At the end of the corridor you will be greeted by a documentary created by Mr. Stanley Wong (also known as another mountain man) showcasing Raymond's life in between architecture and art through multiple perspectives.



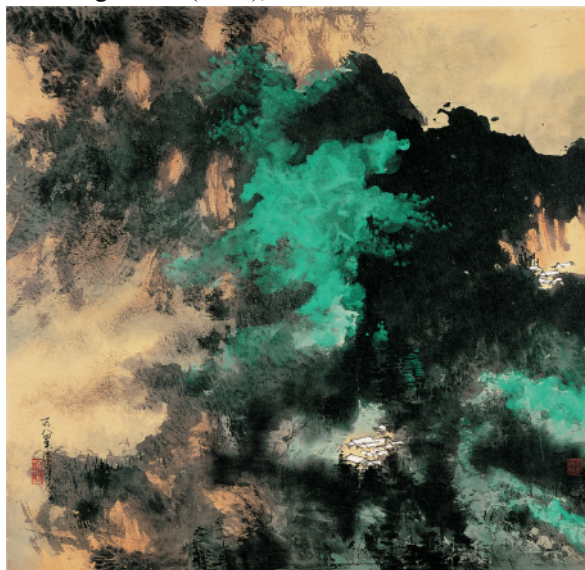
Scene of the City Hall painted in 1962 (at the age of 9) and published in the school newspaper.



Rapidograph drawn in 1978 (at the age of 26)



Painted at the age of 33 (1985), scene of the Island North at that time



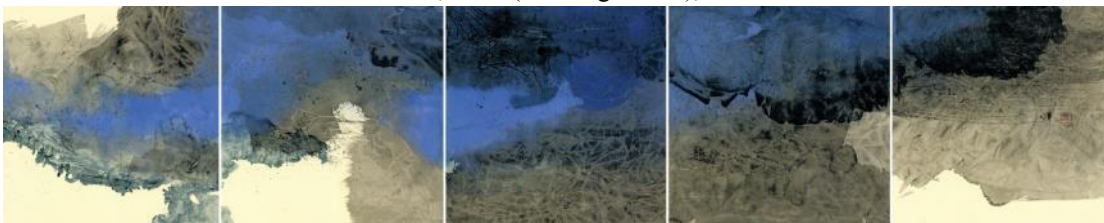
Beyond Horizon, 1984 (at the age of 32), 70x70cm



Here is Double Haven (1), 2015 (at the age of 63), 28x235cm



Sam Pui Chau, 2017 (at the age of 65), 30x240cm



Global Warming, 2019 (at the age 67), 33x33cmx5



Our Land, 2022 (at the age of 70), 90x720cm

About Raymond Fung



Born in 1952 in Hong Kong, Raymond Fung Wing Kee is a renowned artist and architect in Hong Kong. He was selected as one of the Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 1990 and has received numerous art and design awards throughout the years. In 1997, Fung won the Vermont Artist Village Scholarship. In 2008, he received the Certificate of Commendation from the Hong Kong SAR Home Affairs Bureau for his outstanding achievements in the promotion of arts and culture in Hong Kong. He was awarded Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Designers Awards in 2009 and was appointed Justice of Peace in 2011.

Fung has been involved in over 70 architecture projects, counting amongst them are the Hong Kong Wetland Park, Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade Beautification Project, Wisdom Path, Victoria Peak Garden Beautification Project, Edinburgh Place, West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade, Sai Kung Waterfront Park and the City Hall Memorial Garden. He has won the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Annual Awards and more than 50 other awards in visual arts, architecture and interior design.

For his artistic achievements, Fung has exhibited extensively with solo exhibitions in Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Taipei, Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York, Paris and Avignon. His works are widely collected by international corporations and museums including Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (San Francisco), The National Art Museum of China (Beijing), Shanghai Art Museum (now renamed as China Art Museum, Shanghai), Hong Kong Museum of Art (HK), The University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG) of The University of Hong Kong (HK) and Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HK).

Fung's watershed moment was in 1989 when his works were chosen to be staged at the Contemporary Chinese Painting 1984-89 exhibition at Harvard University (Boston). This exhibition was curated by renowned scholar and art curator Professor Wu Hung, then teaching at Harvard. Fung was also selected to exhibit at the Venice Biennale (Architecture). His exhibited work, entitled Fish Ball, reflected the fast-paced lifestyle of Hong Kong and the local nature of compactness that strived for mass production, convenience and efficiency. Fung's monumental work Dynasties, is now on permanent display at the Hong Kong Palace Museum.

Fung began his career in landscaping, with a specific concern on the countryside of Hong Kong, which reflects his deep attachment and sense of belonging to his hometown. In recent years, he has begun to explore universally shared values, in hope of raising people's awareness for environmental and global social issues.

Fung is presently a Board Member of Hong Kong Palace Museum and member of Acquisition Committee, a member of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Development Committee (HK), an Honorary Advisor of Hong Kong LCSD Museums (HK), and a member of Hong Kong Observatory Strategic Advisory Committee.



Acknowledgements

Venue Partner: West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

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Exhibition Dates: 11th February to 27th February, 2023 | 10:00 – 20:00

Media Preview: 14:00 – 15:00, February 10, 2023

Opening Ceremony: 11:00 – 11:30, February 11, 2023

Symposium Dates: February 11th-12th | February 18th-19th | February 25 | 15:30–17:00

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Media downloads: <https://bit.ly/3QB4lbO>