

ANG AH TEE, 65

VISUAL ARTS

Born in Singapore in 1943, Ah Tee is a home-grown artist known for his acrylic, watercolour and oil paintings. His style is vivid and vibrant, characterised by a unique blend of random brushwork, palette-knife technique and the bold use of colours. His dedication, hardwork and consistency in his artistic practice is rare and admirable.

In 1962, he graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), where he specialised in Western painting. In 1977, he became a full-time artist to better pursue his passion. His extensive travels across countries like France, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Egypt, China and Australia, helped to fuel inspiration for his works, the most renowned of which include *Kashmir* (1994), *Shanghai* (1994) and *First Day of Summer* (1996).

There were instances where he was so captivated by certain scenes that he would make repeated visits to those locales to paint them again. For example, on the theme of Venice, he has painted various versions of St Mark's Square, capturing different lights and moods.

Through the 1980s, he had five solo exhibitions. His other one-man shows include *New Destinations* (Caldwell House, Chijmes, 1997), *Visual Enchantments* (Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2003) and *Inspired Journey* (NAFA, 2006).

Ah Tee also participated in many group exhibitions locally and in countries and cities like Hong Kong, Taiwan, Israel, United Kingdom and the United States. In 1977, he took part in the Jubilee Art Exhibition for Queen Elizabeth in London. He was also represented in the showing of *Singapore Contemporary Paintings* at the 5th Festival of Asian Art (1980) in Hong Kong and *Twenty Singapore Artists* at New York Art Expo (1989).

Widely sought after by collectors, many of his artworks are in the collections of organisations like DBS Bank, United Overseas Bank, Shell, the National University of Singapore, NAFA, the Esplanade and Singapore Art Museum.

The awards that he has won include the Distinction Award in the Port of Singapore Authority Open Art Competition (1974), the National Day Art Exhibition Award (1978) that was given out by Singapore's Ministry of Culture, and first prize in Dr Tan Tsze Chor Art Award (Western Painting) in 2001.