

ARTIST BIO - Amy Y Sie, Gongbi Artist

The journey into the world of Chinese brush painting has opened her eyes to masters who have given joy to millions with the rendering of their artistic view of nature. It has also taught her to pay more attention to her surroundings and to see with different "eyes" the beauty of nature. Mastery of Gongbi technique allows her to continue to use traditional Chinese brushwork, the interplay between ink and rice paper to depict subject matter reflective of her life in the Northwest.

Born to Chinese Indonesian parents in Chungking, China, Amy was later raised in a household where English, Indonesian and Chinese languages were used on a daily basis. The early exposure to diversity in language and culture probably instilled in her the appreciation for the eclectic. She was educated in an Anglican-run girls' school before coming to the USA for her post high school studies. While she has always been passionate about music, art, particularly Chinese art, did not interest her until she became involved with Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Tacoma as a volunteer. Her month-long stay in Kent's sister city Yangzhou generated a new found interest in making art with ink and brush.

Using Gongbi style as foundation, she integrates her ethnic heritages and the influences from her British and American education into her paintings, both in the selection of subjects and the choice of colors. She is drawn to bright, vibrant colors that give drama and excitement to quiet living in retirement from social work.

Although she spent the first twenty years of her life in Hong Kong, she knew next to nothing about Chinese ink painting. Retirement and hours of volunteer work at Asia Pacific Cultural Center lured her back to an examination of her Chinese heritage. Since her education was grounded in both the British and American systems, it has been a challenge for her to appreciate traditional Chinese ink painting which incorporates philosophy and symbolism into its artistic expressions. The hours of practice doing Chinese calligraphy in the primary grades gave her a slight advantage when she started learning Gongbi, the traditional fine brush painting that requires using ink and brush to outline subject matter. This technique has been instructive in teaching her how to combine colors, to understand form and structure of the subjects she paints. She is available for commissioned work.

Taking part in exhibitions since 2006, her work has recently been exhibited at:

Covington City Hall Gallery Solo Show (September, 2012)

Overseas Chinese Artists Group Exhibition at Nanhai Art Center (September, 2011)

Auburn City Hall Gallery Group Exhibition (September, 2011)

The Gallery at Grace: Solo Show (July-August, 2010)

Providence Mount St. Vincent : Group Art Exhibition (September, 2009)