



【Press Release: For Immediate Release】

To: General News / Feature / Culture and Arts News Interview Director/ Editor/  
Reporter

**Sun Museum Presents a New Exhibition  
in Recognition of the Late Chow Kung Lei's Commitment to Art**

(Hong Kong, 11 January, 2023) Sun Museum presents its latest exhibition “Duet of Flowers and Birds: Paintings by Chow Kung Lei”, featuring the works of Chow Kung Lei (1903-1989), a Hong Kong ink painter and art educator. The exhibition showcases some 100 works on the themes of flowers, birds, animals, landscape and figures, and will be running from January 12 - April 6 2023.

Chow Kung Lei graduated from the Shanghai Institute of Art in 1926. He was the pupil of the famous Russian painter Victor Stepanowitsch Podgoursky and famous Chinese painters Wu Changshuo and Li Teifu. In 1942, he served as the Director of the Guangxi Provincial Art Museum, and held an anti-war art exhibition with Xu Beihong. After the war, Chow moved to Hong Kong. Other than local exhibitions, he had art exhibitions in Thailand, Macau, California and Montreal and Toronto in Canada. He was also much respected by renowned Chinese masters such as Zhang Daqian, Xu Beihong and Luo Shuzhong. His artworks are collected by the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Heritage Museum and various museums in California.

Chow Kung Lei received official training in Western paintings when he was young. He emphasized the importance of painting from life. He stated a painter should have good observation skills in order to capture the essence of his subjects with unrestrained brushwork. The subjects he painted, no matter figures, animals or flowers, are characterized with perfect forms and vivid spirit. Chow proposed that one should use alternate dark and light ink and colours to show perspective space. He loved to use bright red and contrasting green to create eye-catching images. Chow excelled in painting roses and pigeons, and was known as “the King of Roses” and “the Ace of Pigeons”. He innovatively depicted pigeon feathers and rose petals with white pigment. The roses he painted were lively, with the leaves gathered and dispersed in a rhythmic manner. His pigeons came to life with first brush strokes through his fluent brushwork.

Chow was very passionate about art education. During the Japanese invasion of China, he established the Institute of National Arts to promote art and organise charity art exhibitions for disaster relief in Hong Kong. After the war, he established the Kung Lei School of Art, successfully garnering a wealth of students over a few decades. He guided his students using simple brushwork, at the same time encouraged them to develop their own styles. Chow was enthusiastic for art education and firmly believed there should be no discrimination in teaching. Not only did he waive tuition fees for poor students, he also patiently taught deaf students in hopes of nurturing them to make a living as an artist. Other than Chow Kung Lei's paintings, the exhibition also showcases some seldom-seen pieces – his teaching materials.

Mr. Yeung Chun Tong, Director of Sun Museum said, "Chow's works blend the old and the new, the East and the West, and are worthy of conservation and study; his contribution to art education should also be remembered. An outstanding Hong Kong predecessor painter, Chow undoubtedly deserves to be missed".

At the same time, Sun Museum collaborates with Surein Foundation to present an additional new exhibition "Eco-friendly Lifestyle: Winning Artworks of Surein Foundation Competitions 2022". Forty winning artworks are shortlisted from 700 entries for public exhibition to promote environmental education, as well as nurture young art talents.

Sun Museum is located on the 4th floor of SML Tower, 165 Hoi Bun Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong. The museum is open from 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. It is closed on Sundays, Mondays and public holidays. Admission is free.

High resolution photos : <https://bit.ly/3GDYHIZ>

This press release is dispatched by **Mention PR Consultants Limited** on behalf of Sun Museum. For media enquiries, please contact:

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**About Sun Museum**

Sun Museum, a non-profit institution established by Simon Suen Foundation, is housed on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of SML Tower along the Kwun Tong waterfront (165 Hoi Bun Road) with a total area of 12,500 sq. ft. It aims to foster the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong and China through organising exhibitions, seminars and other educational activities. Mr Yeung Chun Tong is the Director of Sun Museum.

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