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**Sun Museum presents “Chinese Tradition in Western Oil”  
Remarkable oil paintings showcase fusion of Chinese and Western traditions**

(*Hong Kong, 20 February 2020*) Sun Museum is pleased to present the exhibition “**Chinese Tradition in Western Oil**” from 21 February to 2 May 2020. The exhibition contains 46 oil paintings dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. They are painted by 24 artists, including the legendary female painter Pan Yu Lin, the “Matisse of the East” Ding Yanyong, the “Three Musketeers” in Paris Wu Guanzhong, Chu Teh Chun and Zao Wou Ki, along with Shen Ping, Lam Man Kong, Ng Chung, Liu Cheng Mei, and other contemporary painters in Hong Kong.

Oil painting is a traditional medium of Western art. During the reign of Emperor Kangxi, Western missionaries introduced oil painting techniques to the Imperial court. In the early Republican era, quite a number of young Chinese artists travelled abroad to study Western oil painting in countries such as Britain, France and Japan. Under frequent exchange between the East and the West, many Chinese painters have been practicing oil paint even today.

However, early Chinese oil painters tended to incorporate concepts and techniques of traditional Chinese painting into their works. Oil paint has been employed to draw calligraphic lines and depict the temperament of literati painting, as well as the style of Chinese genre painting. For example, Wu Guanzhong borrows the ancient literati’s figurative portrayal of bamboo to add a Chinese lyrical ambience to his work. Chu Teh Chun deploys free-flowing cursive calligraphy to paint abstract symbols, depicting a rich and dramatic visual illustration of monumental landscapes. Zao Wou Ki draws inspirations from the ancient Chinese visual culture and applies colour tones in his works that recall ancient oracle bones and bronzes.

Despite embracing the techniques of Western impressionism and realism, contemporary Chinese oil painters mainly use local customs and sceneries as their subject matter which evoke the sentiments of traditional Chinese painting. For example, Shen Ping depicts social scenes and the simple lives of ordinary people along the lines of traditional Chinese genre painting. Yu Zhongbao reveals the Tibetans’ love of life in his oil paintings that embody rich Chinese elements. Ng Chung and Wu Chun Yin, both well-versed in still-life painting, create a style of contemporary literati bird-and-flower painting.

Mr. Yeung Chun Tong, Director of Sun Museum, said, “Chinese painters often employ Western oil paint to draw calligraphic strokes and express feelings associated with literati paintings. As a result, these uniquely Chinese oil paintings are reminiscent of lyrical ink paintings that abound in delightful literary, poetic and artistic charm. We hope visitors will be able to appreciate the way these innovative yet traditional art pieces employ a fusion of Chinese and Western elements.”

Sun Museum is housed on the 4th floor of SML Tower, 165 Hoi Bun Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Opening Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. Closed on Sunday, Monday and Public Holidays. Free Admission.

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#### **About Sun Museum**

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