

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Professor Lee Hon Ching, MFA

Professor Lee Hon Ching is from Xinhui in Guangdong. An artist based in the US who has specialized in sculpture and printmaking, he is a long-term supporter of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The Lee family has a distinguished history. Members of Professor Lee's father's generation, and of his own, achieved prominence in the business world. However, Professor Lee is not the same and he decided to follow his own path. With both talent and aspiration from a young age, he fell in love with art. Travelling the world, sailing the seven seas, studying and working, his path led him repeatedly to achieve and then re-set his goals as an artist. He is now a philanthropist who cares for the education of the younger generation, and has for many years strongly supported education, research, academic development and student planning at CUHK. He plans carefully and works tirelessly, returning to Hong Kong every year to personally participate in encouraging various types of art and art education and enrichment.

Professor Lee showed an early interest in calligraphy and drawing – in all forms of art – and received instruction from well-known teachers after school. He was taught Sinology by Chan Shuen Chun and Wu Tianren, calligraphy by She Xueman and Xie Xi, and traditional Chinese painting, watercolor and oil painting by Luis Chan, Wong Lui Sang and Wong Chiu Foon. This established a good artistic foundation. After graduating from Clementi Secondary School, he went to America to pursue his studies, initially studying architecture at the University of Kansas and then the University of California at Berkeley. He studied art at the University of Oregon, receiving the Master of Fine Arts (sculpture) with honors in 1967. Professor Lee has wide-ranging interests in the field of art, and rich knowledge and experience. He has pursued studies, including post-graduate work. In sculpture and printmaking at five US universities, and has conducted investigative research at many museums and art galleries in the US, Europe, Japan, Taiwan and elsewhere.

It could be said that by coming to understand the marvels of various schools and bringing together the unique essences of East and West, Professor Lee became a knowledgeable, erudite, stylistically unique and outstanding artist and scholar. From 1965 to 1985, he taught art — eventually with the rank of full Professor — at the University of Oregon and then at Rockford College. Also at Rockford, he was for eleven years the Director of the Clark Arts Center Gallery, where he organized many major art exhibitions including an international biennale of prints and drawings. From 1990 to 2005, he was a special lecturer for the International Symposium of the Northwest Stone Sculptors Association in the US. He was also appointed to serve as an Arts Commissioner for the City of Bellevue, Washington.

Professor Lee's art works cover numerous categories, are highly original and feature multiple perspectives. They are not limited to a single style but do center on sculpture and prints. His works have been shown in invitational and competitive exhibitions, in both group



and individual shows, throughout the US as well as in Hong Kong and Taiwan, for nearly fifty years. Professor Lee has developed a detailed understanding of each step of the processes he uses to create his various types of art. He is then able to use them freely, and his works come together naturally, fusing East and West, showing much through simplicity, providing rules for the abstract, and showing the artist's character through his style.

Professor Lee Hon Ching and CUHK have a deep relationship and a longstanding friendship marked by cooperation. He has served as Art Advisor to Chung Chi College and United College for many years. Through his planning and assistance, the Hop Wai Arts and Cultural Development Fund has been established and well-known artists and scholars have been invited to visit Hong Kong. Moreover, he has personally visited CUHK, helping to organize art exhibitions, presenting lectures and art workshops, giving both personal and collaborative demonstrations, expending both money and effort to actively encourage artistic development and understanding and various cultural activities at Chung Chi and United Colleges. He has implemented Confucius's advice to "set your will on the path of truth, dedicate yourself to the pursuit of learning, form your mind and body in the arts" and has thereby turned art education into a core part of learning at the two colleges. The faculty and students have benefited from his teaching.

Professor Lee is a person of simple tastes who reveres nature, recognizes emptiness and does not pursue luxury. In supporting the younger generation, he is always warm-hearted, generous and attentive. He has established a number of scholarships at CUHK, and provided financial assistance to students of Chinese medicine and those of Chinese and Western culture, history and the arts. He has conducted specialist research and short-term studies, with dozens of young students reaping the benefits for more than ten years. He has also supported programmes in art and culture at Chung Chi and United Colleges, the Institute of Chinese Medicine at CUHK in conducting research combining traditional medicine with modern techniques, and various units such as the Hong Kong Literature Research Centre for the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, the School of Life Sciences and the Art Museum. He also helps plan the relevant activities. It can be said that his contribution to all aspects of CUHK development has been considerable.

Mr Chairman, to recognize Professor Lee Hon Ching's artistic achievements and the artistic style he has upheld, the influence of a solid education and the assistance and support he has provided to so many aspects of The Chinese University of Hong Kong — and, indeed, the noble character which keeps him from claiming credit for himself — may I present to you Professor Lee Hon Ching for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.