

In the Chinese Style: Lin Min En and Ralph Knight

Artists' Profiles

LIN MIN EN (Lam Man Yan)

Born 1954: Cheng Hai County, Guang Dong Province, PRC

Lin was raised with a love of Chinese philosophy; Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism as well as Chinese art and music.

In 1979 he moved to Hong Kong where he studied with leading artists. Lin studied the range of calligraphy styles but excelled in Li Shu style. He became famous for his 'black' ink paintings. His most well known are his bamboo styles exploiting the skills of Chinese calligraphy. His works have won him numerous awards.

He promotes Chinese traditional arts through his gallery in Shenzhen and through the many arts and calligraphy societies in Hong Kong and south China.

He is well known for promoting the slogan: ***Ren Mo mo; Mo mo ren*** (A small act that contains within it a depth of (Chinese) culture) i.e. the act of grinding the calligraphy ink on the ink stone is representative of the development of Chinese culture through the art of writing (calligraphy).

RALPH KNIGHT (Na Jing Han)

Born 1940: Melbourne

Ralph was educated in Melbourne, trained as a secondary school teacher then joined the Australian Army where he studied Chinese language at the RAAF School of Languages in Melbourne and the UK Ministry of Defence Language School in Hong Kong (1972-1975).

In 1976 he returned to Melbourne as the lecturer in charge of Chinese language at the RAAF School of Languages and remained there until 1984. Upon retiring from the army he took up the position of assistant director of the Institute of Modern Languages at James Cook University in Townsville. From 1987 to 2000 he taught Chinese language courses at the university.

In 2003 he returned to Hong Kong and commenced his study of Chinese calligraphy with Lin Min En at the Chinese Art Gallery in Kowloon. On the advice of his teacher he decided to specialise in the Li Shu style (Western Han 200 AD).

In 2005 he exhibited his work at the 14th International Calligraphers' Exhibition in the Central Library, Hong Kong and in 2006 he exhibited ***The Thousand Character Classic*** (28 scrolls) and other works as part of Lin Min En's Master and Pupil exhibition in Beijing.

Since then Ralph has continued to develop his own style of calligraphy and ink painting under the guidance of his teacher. In 2008 a number of his pieces were exhibited at Lin Min En et al exhibition in Jie Yang, Guang Dong Province. A further joint exhibition was held in Shenzhen (PRC) and Shantou (PRC).

In 2009 Ralph founded Red Dragons Calligraphy and held a Master and Pupil Exhibition of Chinese calligraphy and ink painting at the Post Office Gallery, Hou Wang Temple and Museum, Atherton. This was the first time that Lin and Ralph had exhibited their work in Australia and Atherton, with its links to Southern China, was an appropriate venue for a traditional Chinese art exhibition.

In 2013 Ralph and Lin held two joint exhibitions in Cairns and Townsville as part of Chinese New celebrations. Both artists demonstrated their techniques, gave artist talks and community and school workshops during the Cairns celebrations at The Tanks Gallery. They are looking forward to exhibiting their work in the Woolloongabba Art Gallery during Spring Festival 2015.