

Recent Books on Art and Art History - August 2010

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Art in Pakistan : Traditions and Trends : Dialogues and Essays / Ashfaq Rasheed
Lahore : Pakistan Writers Co-operative Society, 2010
177p.
978-969-8460-18-1
\$ 55.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122368>

Chinese Landscape Painting as Western Art History / James Elkins
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xxvi. 180p. ; 26cm.
ISBN-13: 9789622090002 (HB)
\$ 35.00

This is a provocative essay of reflections on traditional mainstream scholarship on Chinese art as done by towering figures in the field such as James Cahill and Wen Fong. James Elkins offers an engaging and accessible survey of his personal journey encountering and interpreting Chinese art through Western scholars' writings. He argues that the search for optimal comparisons is itself a modern, Western interest, and that art history as a discipline is inherently Western in several identifiable senses. Although he concentrates on art history in this book, and on Chinese painting in particular, these issues bear implications for Sinology in general, and for wider questions about humanistic inquiry and historical writing.

Jennifer Purtle's Foreword provides a useful counterpoint from the perspective of a Chinese art specialist, anticipating and responding to other specialists' likely reactions to Elkins's hypotheses.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122258>

Friendship in Art: Fou Lei and Huang Binhong / Claire Roberts
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xv, 232p.;
Includes Index
9789888028405
\$ 38.00

[This book documents in letters, photos, and paintings a special friendship between two highly creative individuals who helped shape Chinese culture in the twentieth Century- the revered traditional painter Huang Binhong (1865-1955) and the young, cosmopolitan

critic and translator Fou Lei (1906-66). As one of China's oldest and most distinguished artists in the 1940s and 1940s, Huang Binhong was committed to artistic continuity and reinvigoration of brush-and-ink painting. Fou Lei was a child of the New Culutre Movement which repudiated manu literati tradition, but reached out to Huang Binhong to discuss the possibilities for contemporary Chinese art amid the tides of war and Communist dictates of socialist realism as the guiding priority for cultural workers. Both were cultural mediators and translators of ideas and cultural expressions. Both had deep appreciation of the common origins of calligraphy and painting, renderin complex feelings with brush and ink.]

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122269>

Ramayana in Focus: Visual and Performing Arts of Asia / Gauri Parimoo Krishnan (Edited)

Singapore: Asian Civilisations Museum, 2010

231p. ; 32cm.

Includes index

ISBN-13: 9789810859718

1. Valmiki. Ramayana – Illustrations
2. Valmiki – Adaptations
3. Rama (Hindu deity) – Art
4. Arts, Asian

\$ 60.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122288>

Cities Here and Now: Paintings and Installation Works by Lu Hao / Wu Hung (Curator)

Singapore: Singapore Art Museum, 2009

84p. ; 30cm.

ISBN-13: 9789810838409

\$ 25.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122289>

The Tingkep and Other Crafts of the Pala'wan / Nola Andaya & Norli Colili

Quezon City: Non-timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-TF), 2008

40p. ; 15cm.

ISBN-13: 9789719338802

\$ 8.00

More than a basket, the Tingkep is a reflection of the life and culture of a people. It reveals the strong bond between the culture of the Pala'wan people and their land. This handicraft combines the artwork of humans and the forest. It draws from the bounty of nature, as well as the artistry and skill of men and women. Now that there are threats to the forests of Pala'wan island, the Pala'wan people are also threatened by the potential loss of their homes and their traditions, including the craft of tingkep.

Their effort to save the forest is a quest not just to conserve nature, but also to keep their culture and tradition alive.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122272>

Scent of invisible footprints. The sculpture of Pitika Ntuli /Pitika Quartz; Edited by Antoinette Ntuli

South Africa : UNISA Press, 2010

ISBN 978-1-86888-623-4

\$ 75.00

Scent of Invisible Footprints intermingles poetry, prose and sculpture and gives the reader a glimpse into the complex and restless mind of Pitika Ntuli who spent 32 years of his life in exile. Pitika carries us into the world of wood, stone, bone and metal – turning the familiar into novelty; demystifying daily objects; powerfully conveying human feeling and sensibilities - ideas, philosophies and dreams ooze out of solid, apparently inanimate, objects. His works are full of humour, wit and magic, and are imbued with profound indigenous insights, whilst at the same time conversing with Western artists like Modigliani, Giacometti and Picasso. To read the book is to follow the scent of invisible footprints into the womb of this extraordinary sculptor's creative mind
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122705>

Re.turn: Recent Works of Franklin Chow
Philippines: ArtPostAsia Pte Ltd., 2009
112p. ; 28cm.
ISBN-13: 9789719429289 (HB)
\$ 50.00

This is the debut exhibition of the artists in Asia at the ION Art Gallery.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122783>

Singapore Contemporary Artists Series: Vincent Leow
Singapore: Singapore Art Museum, 2010
80p. ; 25cm.
ISBN-13: 9789814260411
\$ 40.00

Singapore Contemporary Artists Series: Vincent Leow documents and charts the artist's career that spans over two decades. Through close analysis of significant periods of the artist's life as well as personal responses from artists, curators and art historians on his keywords, readers will understand the motivation behind Vincent's thought-provoking installations, paintings, sculptures, mixed media art and art performances.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123035>

The Learning Photographer: Scholarly texts on Hans Georg Berger's Art Work in Laos and Iran
Luang Prabang: Anantha Publishing, 2009
96p. ; 19cm.
\$ 24.00

With his innovative method of photography, Hans Georg Berger posits the artist as an outsider who strives to blend in with the community he desires to represent. The traditional roles of the photographer as the active, and of those photographed as the passive part of the artistic process are being questioned, and in part inverted. The essays and interviews assembled in this book explore Hans Georg Berger's artistic experiences in Laos and Iran. An anthropologist; a critic of photography; an ethnologist; an urbanist; and two fellow writers, explain and investigate the radicality of his reconsideration of the relationship between artist and subject.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123205>

Eyes on Darkness : Paintings of Memory
Phnom Penh : Youth For Peace, 2010
1v.
\$ 40.00

This book, which combines the paintings, portraits, experiences and feelings of painters, is the first ever art book that lets the survivor generations paint their experiences about the Khmer Rouge Period, promoting an intergenerational dialogue through art.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123256>

Art 15 Friends : Friends-International celebrates 15 years of Children's Art created at Mith Samlanh
Phnom Penh : Friends-International, 2010
107p.
0-9763607-2-1
\$ 29.50
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123257>

Preah Bot : Buddhist Painted Scrolls in Cambodia / Vittorio Roveda, Sothon Yen
Bangkok : River Books, 2010
151p.
978-974-9863-99-2
\$ 39.50
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123258>

Vichit Chaiwong
Chiang Mai: Vichit Studio, 2008
194p. ; 29cm.
ISBN-13: 9789748132389 (HB)
Bilingual English & Thai Language
\$ 100.00
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123301>

Buddhist Murals of Northeast Thailand : Reflections of the Isan Heartland / Bonnie Pacala Brereton, Somroay Yencheuy
Chiang Mai : Mekong Press, 2010
xi, 84p.
978-616-90053-1-5
\$ 29.95
ID : 120743

Books on mural painting in Thailand have tended to focus on works commissioned by royalty or other elites from the centers of power. This volume is the first to examine a vibrant sub-school of painting from the rural heartland of the Northeastern Region, also known as Isan. Inspired by local Buddhist practices and created by ordinary villagers, the colorful murals portray scenes from traditional stories that are unique to the region. Distinctively painted on the exterior of ordination halls, the compositions appear to circle the building rather than remain confined to a single panel. The figures appearing on all levels of the paintings, on closer examination, include not only Buddhist personages and epic heroes, but also the villagers themselves as they participate in their own festivals and day-to-day activities.

Written as an introduction to the topic, Buddhist Murals of Northeast Thailand is a multifaceted and empathetic study of these lovely and lively paintings, and will appeal to anyone interested in the Mekong Region, as well as to scholars of art history, Buddhism, and anthropology in Southeast Asia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120743>

MARSI / Michel Steve
Bangkok, 2010
978-974-401-139-8
In French
\$ 70.00

Collection of Paintings of Princess Marsi
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123302>

Thai Mural Painting Vol.2. / Gerhard Jaiser
Bangkok : White Lotus Press, 2010
268p.; 64pp illus. in Col
1 CD in Pocket, 21cm.
9789744801531
\$ 40.00

Thai Mural Painting, Volume 2: Society, Preservation and Subjects is a continuation of Thai Mural Painting, Volume 1: Iconography, Analysis and Guide. Together these volumes provide a concise overview of all aspects of Thai mural painting. The main body of this second volume considers important aspects of Thai everyday life and culture as reflected in mural paintings. Also included are chapters on selected stylistic developments, the conservation of murals and the role of murals in Thai society. An index covers both volumes and a CD-ROM includes all 880 illustrations in both volumes, in colour

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=123303>

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