

Ong Kim Seng



Biography

Mr. Ong Kim Seng (b. 1945, Singapore –), *BBM. A.W.S. DF. N.W.S* stands today as one of the most highly-acclaimed watercolour artists in Asia. A full-time artist since 1985, Mr. Ong was awarded the Cultural Medallion in Visual Arts by the Republic of Singapore in 1990 and is a recipient of 8 awards from the prestigious American Watercolour Society (AWS). In 1990, he became the first Asian outside of the U.S. to be awarded the AWS membership. He was conferred the distinguished Dolphin Fellowship by the Society in 2000.

Displaying fluid strokes and excellent attention to detail, Mr. Ong's watercolour paintings are remarkable for their lyrical expressiveness and poetic charms. Mr. Ong Kim Seng's paintings have been featured in numerous exhibitions around the world, including Singapore Art Museum, Agung Rai Museum and Neka Museum (Bali, Indonesia), and in other foreign missions and embassies of the Republic of Singapore. The watercolour maestro also counts Queen Elizabeth II of England, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, President of the Republic of Korea, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, President of the Republic of the Philippines, Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister of India, the Governor of Hokkaido, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations amongst the long list of royal figures and luminaries who have come to be collectors of his artworks.

Mr. Ong has been an Art Advisor to the National Arts Council since 1998 and is a life Fellow of the National University of Singapore's Centre of the Arts. He previously served as the President of the Singapore Watercolour Society from 1991 to 2001 and is currently their Honorary President. The artist's most recent appointment was as Chief Judge for the International Watercolour Exposition held in China, among an international panel of judges from China, USA, Australia, Uruguay, Russia, France and Sweden.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2000 Recent works of Ong Kim Seng, Singapore History Museum Celebration of Excellence Exhibition, Galerie Belvedere, MICA Building
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- 2002 Timeless Jiangnan, a Joint Exhibition with Kwek Leng Joo, Singapore
- 2003 Recent Works by Ong Kim Seng, in conjunction with the launch of his book “Mastering Light and Shade” at National University of Singapore’s Cultural Centre
- 2004 Moments of Light, a recent work in monotypes, lithographs, paper pulp painting and watercolours at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute, Singapore
- 2005 Solo Exhibition with Galerie Belvedere at China Club to help raise funds for the Children’s Cancer Foundation
- 2005 60th Anniversary of the United Nations: Art Exhibition, United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland
- 2005 Scenic Watercolours, Galerie Belvedere, Capital Tower, Singapore
- 2005 Shanghai Land of Splendour, Shanghai Art Fair, China
- 2005 Guangzhou Art Fair, Guangzhou Commodity Fair Exhibition, China
- 2006 Reflections in Watercolour, Galerie Belvedere, The Arts House, Singapore
- 2007 Visions in Watercolour, Galerie Belvedere, The Arts House, Singapore
- 2008 Shadow of Watercolours, at Galerie Belvedere, Capital Tower, Singapore
- 2008 Home and Nation in the Art of Ong Kim Seng at the Singapore Art Museum
- 2010 Poems in Watercolour, Galerie Belvedere, The Arts House, Singapore
- 2012 Enthralling Landscapes: Recent Works of Ong Kim Seng, artcommune gallery, Singapore
- 2013 Solo Exhibition with Quanhua Watercolour Art Gallery Shanghai, Shanghai, China
- 2014 Ong Kim Seng: Travel Journal in Oils, artcommune gallery, Singapore
- 2014 Nostalgia in Transformation, Ode to Art, Singapore
- 2015 Exotic Sunlight: Paintings by Ong Kim Seng, artcommune gallery, Singapore
- 2018 Visions of Sojourns: Paintings of Ong Kim Seng, artcommune gallery, Singapore



artcommune
gallery

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Awards

- 1974 First Prize, Port of Singapore Authority Encouragement Scheme Open Art Competition
- 1983 Paul B. Remmy AWS Memorial Award, American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 1988 Lucy B. Moore Memorial Award, American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 1989 Clara Stroud Memorial Award, American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 1990 Cultural Medallion (Visual Arts), Ministry of Information and the Arts, Singapore
- 1992 Barse Miller Memorial Award, American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 2000 Winsor & Newton Award, American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 2000 Conferred the Dolphin Fellow by American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 2000 Excellence for Singapore Award, Singapore Totalisator Board
- 2001 Singapore Internationale Award, Singapore International Foundation
- 2001 Ida Wells Memorial Award, American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 2001 Supporter of the Arts Award conferred by the National Arts Council
- 2003 Silver Award , National Watercolour Exhibition of the People's Republic of China, Fuzhou, China
- 2010 Winsor & Newton Award, American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 2010 Friend of Heritage Award, National Heritage Board, Singapore
- 2014 Master of ASEAN Watercolourist at the World Watermedia Exposition, Thailand
- 2015 Frederick Wong Award, American Watercolour Society, New York, USA
- 2017 Top 25 Watercolour Painters in the World, International Watercolour Festival, Greece