

Gog Sing Hooi (b. 1933, Guangdong, China - d. 1994, Singapore) is widely hailed as one of Singapore's most

talented watercolourists. Though never afforded the opportunity to do full-time art, he was an active member of the Sunday Group painters between the 1950s and 1960s, and was one of the thirteen artists who co-founded the Singapore Watercolour Society in 1969. A persistent plein-air painter, Gog Sing Hooi is known for



his picturesque depictions of Singapore River, Chinese temples and shophouse scenes in the transparent watercolour style. His landscapes often feature the use of a foreshortened perspective, characterised by meticulous detailing and glazing in an ochre-toned palette.

Born in Guangdong, China, Gog Sing Hooi moved to Malaya at a young age, spending most part of his childhood in Penang. He worked as a teacher in Kedah before moving to Singapore in 1957 to enrol at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). While embarking on his art training at NAFA, he worked as a teacher in Tuan Mong Primary School and studied part-time at the Singapore Teachers' Training College. Though for practical reasons he chose a career as a teacher for over thirty years, he continued in his watercolour pursuit and devoted much of his free time to perfecting his techniques.

Gog greatly respected and admired Lim Cheng Hoe. Participating in the Sunday Group afforded him a platform to observe and learn from Lim Cheng Hoe, and discuss painting techniques with the artists in the group. Like Lim Cheng Hoe, Gog Sing Hooi was not only humble in developing his own practice but also took on a mentoring role in the Sunday Group. He allowed younger watercolourists to observe his approach and often helped them to improve by critiquing their compositions. Unfortunately, a year after retiring from teaching, Gog Sing Hooi battled cancer and passed away at a relatively young age of 61.