

Macao: Back to Common Roots II

National and classical characters are completely reflected in stamps' paintings. The classic work of art of any period is the portrayal of the social life and spirit of the era, imprinted with historical characteristics and features.

Lok Hei, the painter of a hundred meters long fiber pen scroll painting "Macao: Back to Common Roots", is committed to combining art and Macao's major historical events from the colonial period to the period of Macao returning to the motherland, with unique ideas, emotions, aesthetics and perspectives, showing that Macao is an integral part of China, as well as the unswerving heart to China of its residents! Even though no artist is in a position to fully restore the genuine history visage, Lok Hei consciously and responsibly tells people that the process of revealing the true history of Macao is also his production process. This work is undoubtedly an artistic historical image presented in accordance with history and law, and a work that responds to one of an issue of the epoch.

One of the most fabulous part of the "Macao: Back to Common Roots" is that it has romantically and pleasantly depicted the Bay of Macao appears as a semicircular mirror, in a seemingly effortless composition. The images of the tiled roof of Kun Iam Tong, the Hall of Benevolence of A-Ma Temple, the ruins of St. Paul's and the front wall of St. Lawrence's Church, overlap and aggregate with strong regional elements. All the Chinese traditional wedding customs such as gold bracelet, phoenix crest, mandarin jacket, Chinese bridal gown, ball-shaped bundle of coloured silk ribbons, bride cake, matchmaker, groom and bride, and the western wedding elements such as the church, the priest, the couple, guests, wedding rings, the best man and flowers, perfectly blend together in this small city. It completely reflects that Macao is a multi-culture co-existing society, isn't it?

The painter took advantage of the colour of black and white, plus loose or dense lines, to create a simple but profound painting which people are able to easily understand his creativity, inspiration and idea. Lok Hei, a keen observer, is good at expressing his world with the language of painting. He explores and utilizes the elements of daily life, like special household utensils, signboard or Chinese words in the poster to enrich his paintings. Lok Hei exercised his inventive mind in the integration of individuals and scenery, applying western sketch techniques of brightness and darkness in the Chinese line drawing in traditional ink and brush style to enhance the artistic appeal.

It is extraordinary to launch the stamp issue "Macao: Back to Common Roots II" on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the reunification of Macao with the Motherland.

Author: Chan Kai Chon