

Agnes C. Lee

Biography by Shiang Yu Lee, Ph. D.

Dr. Agnes Lee was born in Chongqing (Chungking) China right after World War II ended. Her family moved to Hong Kong in 1947 where she received her early education in a Catholic girl's school. They moved to Taiwan in 1958 and she attended the Taipei First Girl's Middle School (Bei Yi Nui) in Taiwan.

Agnes graduated from the Tamkang University in 1966 and received her Master's and Ph. D. degrees in Physical Chemistry from the Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia. Dr. Lee then engaged in biomedical research at the University of Iowa for ten years. She joined the Consolidated Bio-Medical Lab in Wichita, Kansas, which later became Roche Bio-Medical Lab and subsequently Lab Corp of America. Dr. Lee retired in 2003 as the Vice President for Operations responsible for the Mid-Land Division of eleven states based in Kansas City, Mo. The most rewarding work for her was helping the Tzu Chi Organization to establish its Bone Marrow Registry in Taiwan, which has since helped hundreds of lives.

After trying out various forms of painting techniques by herself, Dr. Lee began taking lessons from Mr. Deng Zuolie, renown local artist for Chinese traditional paintings two years ago. Her diligence and devotion is reflected in the selected paintings displayed in this show. Meanwhile, she also studies acrylic and mixed media paintings, mono-printing as well as beeswax encaustic techniques with Tracy Felix Fraker and April Richardson.

She believes that the strength of her life lies in faith and love and the way to happiness is through hard work and good decisions. She also believes that a home decorated with real art works will bring harmony and peace to the family, a true purpose of good Feng-Shui.

Dr. Agnes Lee expresses her gratitude for her teachers, Mr. Deng Zuolie, Ms. Tracy Felix Fraker and Ms. April Richardson for their excellent teachings and friendship, Mr. Matt Timo for the many long and inspiring discussions about art and his expert help in hanging the works. Agnes Lee also wishes to thank her best friend Aifen Cheng for her sisterly love, Drs. Lydia and James Ho in supporting the framing of the works and the happy business collaborations through the years. Finally Agnes would like to thank her husband, Dr. Shiang-Yu Lee, and her family for their enthusiasm and constant support in her pursuits of art.

After her retirement, she has been devoting her life to art and painting and she is succeeding. She seeks to interpret millennium-old poetry about life, love, friendships and nature. She describes her work as "Poetry in Painting, Painting of Poetry". Her work combines modern art forms with calligraphy brush strokes, lines, and movements by meticulously inscribing them countless times in vibrant colors. The creation process is a Zen meditation, with music rhythms and dancing movements reflected in the "running script" style. Her heritage continues to be present in each piece of work she creates, conveying her Chinese cultural signature to a broad cosmopolitan audience.