

Real or fake? Authenticating Chen Wen Hsi's works

The last three years saw a growing interest in pioneer artist Chen Wen Hsi's paintings. However, we have also received much feedback from our clients regarding the difficulty in authenticating Chen Wen Hsi's works. From our experience, as much as 80% of Chen's works trading in the market are in fact counterfeit pieces, with some being exceptionally well-copied!

Chen Wen Hsi is perhaps the only Singapore artist whose works have been forged in such a large quantity by organised syndicates. The astonishing amount of faked paintings on circulation in the market since the mid-1980s is estimated to be around 5000 pieces. These imitations, which sometimes display accomplished ink painting techniques, had even shown up at auction houses, resulting in unfamiliar collectors paying hefty sums only to realise the damage!

In view of this, we have organised a talk to help our clients understand the background of these syndicates and share our knowledge on how to authenticate Chen Wen Hsi's paintings and differentiate the real works from the fake ones. Any existing or new collectors who are interested in Chen Wen Hsi's art will find this course greatly useful in minimising their future collecting risk.

*In order to create an optimal learning environment, the class size is limited to just 12 pax.



An authentic painting of gibbons by Chen Wen Hsi – this is one of the most sought-after subject matters on the market but many new collectors unfortunately fell prey to counterfeit production.