

Friends of Lim Tze Peng Proudly Presents

For immediate release, 7 February 2014

Tze Peng: Songs from the Heart

This blockbuster exhibition which opens on 21st March features around 30 dynamic works of calligraphy by one of Singapore's most enduring veteran artists, Lim Tze Peng. Proudly presented by Friends of Lim Tze Peng –a group of long-time friends and fervent supporters who also organised the artist's widely-acclaimed 2010 exhibition, *My Kampong, My Home* –this 2014 show is a fitting sequel honouring Tze Peng's continuous aesthetic legacy, this time in the esoteric field of Chinese Calligraphy.

A Cultural Medallion Award winner in 2003, Lim Tze Peng (b.1921 -) has been writing and painting for over five decades. Though largely self-taught in art, he has amassed a diverse portfolio that traverses various mediums, and is most known for his nostalgic ink compositions of Old Singapore scenes as well as highly stylised series of Chinese calligraphy.

Having taken the bold aesthetic turn towards abstraction, Tze Peng continues to build the momentum for his "Muddled Calligraphy" (originally self-termed by the artist as "糊涂字": hu tu zi) –an innovative series that first came to the fore in 2008 and subsequently travelled for show at the prestigious National Art Museum of China in Beijing and the Liu Hai Su Museum in Shanghai. In recent years, Tze Peng has also devised another creative string of calligraphic expressions spotting the uncommon yet organic incorporations of colour pigments to much critical appraisal.

Songs from the Heart showcases this growing body of calligraphic work that pushes the boundaries for a centuries-old tradition and bridges the divide between painting and calligraphy, offering a new paradigm for contemplating Chinese ink aesthetics. Among the exhibits are 3 spectacularly expansive works accomplished by the robust elder, with each spanning almost 2m in length. Rising above the preoccupation with visual content and legibility, these works attest to Tze Peng's evolving practice and his ability to wield the Chinese brush in an increasingly free and uninhibited manner. Conveying more than words, each calligraphy is a rhythmic tapestry of strokes and lines that command vigor and elegance; a sublime expression that flows unimpeded from the artist's heart.

The exhibition will be officially opened by distinguished Guest-of-Honour, Dr. Liu Thai Ker (Chariman, Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore). In conjunction with the opening is the official release of a publication titled after the exhibition, which discusses the artist's evolving calligraphy practice and inspiring stylistic breakthrough in the field of Chinese calligraphy.

Exhibition Opening: 21st March 2014, Friday, 7pm

Guest-of-Honour: Dr. Liu Thai Ker (Chariman, Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore)

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Exhibition Period: 21 – 30 March 2014, 11am – 7.30pm daily

Venue: de Suantio Gallery, Singapore Management University, School of Economics & School of Social Sciences

Admission is free.

Contact Information:

Friends of Lim Tze Peng, friendsofltp@gmail.com

Ho Sou Ping, +65 9747 9046

Here are the images to some of the featured Artworks:



Color Calligraphy, Undated, Chinese ink and colour on rice paper, 104 x 104 cm

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Gold Calligraphy, Undated, Chinese ink and colour on rice paper, 100 x 104 cm



Calligraphy, Undated, Chinese ink on rice paper, 100 x 104 cm

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Calligraphy, 2011, Chinese ink on rice paper, 100 x 104 cm



Color Calligraphy, Undated, Chinese ink and colour on rice paper, 100 x 104 cm