

THE 
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-in-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

CHRISTOPHER ZHONG YUAN ZHANG

1991-1992 Artist-in-Residence
Shanghai, People's Republic of China



"The Widow"

Date Acquired: 6/15/1992, Date Created: 1992
Framed Dimensions: 39.75 x 27.35, Picture Dimensions: 36 x 24"
Medium: Oil on Canvas

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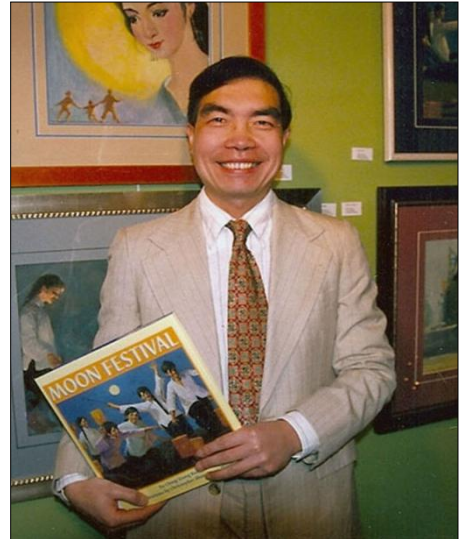
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Christopher Zhong Yuan ZHANG

1991 - 1992 Griffis Art Center's International Artist-in-Residence



from
Shanghai,
People's
Republic of
China



"I was born into an intellectual family in Shanghai, a city which was once known as the "Oriental Paris." The excellent family education and the culturally rich society created a unique living environment of both western and Oriental cultures which laid the foundation of my artistic career. With the strong influence of the cross-culture, I began the "long march" to my life destination when I chose to be an outstanding artist at the age of six. 'Grow to be an artist' has thus become my life philosophy, or, in other words, an ever-lasting dream.

However, my vision was soon challenged by the non-stop social turbulence and endless political campaigns against so-called 'capitalist ideology' starting from the 1950's. My pursuit of Western arts was what the communist regime vowed to eliminate – no art schools, no art books, and no art teachers. But on the dark, rough and unpredictable ocean, my life boat was still going towards the destination in full sail, regardless of the storms and threatening sea. My voyage ended in March 1990 when the West wind landed me on the other side of the Pacific. A new milestone was thus erected in the 'long march.'

A famous Chinese poet wrote in a poem 1,300 years ago,

"...I lift my eyes to watch the mountain moon,
Lower them and dream of home."

"My homeland and its people are always the source of my desire, sensitivity and power of art creation. I love its vast territory, beautiful scenery, brilliant civilization and its people with a long history. When brushing colors onto the canvas, I always feel like searching for my roots and the traditions that I am longing for. But in the meantime, my dream has come true. Thank you China and the United States."