

Art & Culture Interest Group Trip to Taichung for Zao Wu-ki's Exhibition

First of all, a sincere thank-you to Auntie Susan and Jessica for planning and organizing our wonderful day trip to Taichung on January 16th. A & C members were able to experience and enjoy two major art exhibitions during this trip:

(A) "Journey to the Infinities" by Mr. Zao Wou-Ki at the Asia Museum of Modern Art at the Asia University.

(B) "Wonderland" by Ms. Jun Lai at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts

From an art appreciation point of view, I am most interested in the Impressionist arts than abstract arts. This is because the latter is too difficult for me to understand, let alone enjoy and appreciate. However, I was proven to be wrong!

The exhibition "Journey to the Infinities" showcases the first still life painting created by Mr. Zao when he was 15 years old. Both the content and stylistic elements of this painting are drawn heavily from the works of Paul Ce'zanne. In addition, many of Mr. Zao's abstract paintings in this exhibition was inspired by the artist Paul Klee. Furthermore, Mr. Zao's Chinese ink paintings, along with his later paintings of "snapshots of Nature", appropriately reflect his evolving artistry. The painting I was most captivated by is "向杜甫致敬" (A Salute to Du Fu). Our professional guide, Ms. Soong, astutely described Mr. Zao's ability at capturing his deepest emotions with his abstract paintings. "向杜甫致敬" perfectly exemplifies this observation, as the painting vividly portrays the bottomless despair that Mr. Zao endured upon the collapse of his first marriage. Even to the untrained eye, Mr. Zao's frustration and agony were effectively communicated in the deep black strokes that engulf the canvas. At the same time, the insistent flares of red that penetrate the darkness embody the burning fury within Mr. Zao's heart. Upon viewing this painting, I was reminded of Du Fu's famous poem 春望:

國破山河在，城春草木深。

感時花濺淚，恨別鳥驚心。

烽火連三月，家書抵萬金。

白頭搔更短，渾欲不勝簪。

As Du Fu reflects on his abysmal state of being held captive in war-torn Chang An (Capital of China during the Tang dynasty), his inner turmoil resonates deeply with the turbulent emotional landscape depicted in Mr. Zao's painting. Like Du Fu, Mr. Zao is able to concisely yet

powerfully capture his darkest moments of personal crisis in a hauntingly beautiful manner that will captivate generations of audiences to come.

Written by Carol Sun, edited by Alexandra Sun

For the photos: please click: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/DTIiHPMtco9CiVr13>

For the video: please click: <https://youtu.be/SrVCiilW7Qo>