

Ying-Ming Tu

(known as Tu-2)

Preview private Show:

- Wednesday, June 22, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Talk with artist & Meditation

Opening reception:

- Saturday, June 25, 11: am - 5:00 pm

Discussion with artist:

- Friday, July 15 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Speakers: Ying-Ming Tu,
Angela E. Oh

Route to Root: Journey to the Center

June 25 - July 15, 2022



Dream of Whidbey island

- Digital Art, 8x10 (Changeable Size)



Galloping Rider

- Digital Art, 16x20 (Changeable Size)



Blue Rider

- Digital Art, 8x10 (Changeable Size)



Movement

- Digital Art, 8x10 (Changeable Size)



Portrait of the Dalai Lama, (1991)

- Silver Pencil on Prussian Blue Paper / 32"x40"x4pcs (quadriptych)

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Anchored in compassion and peace, Yingming Tu (Tu-2) follows the shifting senses and flow of humanity. In a world of hyper-materialism, and hyper-stimulation, hyper-saturation of media - the work of Tu-2 offers an experience of looking into the depth, beauty, and complexity of the human condition. **ROUTE to ROOT: JOURNEY TO THE CENTER** reveals one individual's interpretation of what happens when East meets West.

His ROUTE started from Asia and it is this thread that he has held onto through life's journey. Tu-2's work chisels away at stagnation and clears space for reflection. A semi-regulated NOMAD, constantly seeking an answer to the suffering he faced in life, Tu-2 the Gemini is Taiwan-born, both indigenous and foreign, immigrant and citizen, sun and moon (translated from his name, Yingming), neither here nor there - being and doing in a world where his Gemini lens opens space for creativity. His art stands at the margins of human experiences, margins as deep as the Mariana Trench

"Mao-ology" was his opening salvo as an artist: "Here I am!" The clever, creative, and compelling array of images from Mickey Mao, Minnie Mao, I-Ching Mao, Zero Mao, Meow Meow Mao allowed Tu-2 to bring together intellect and playfulness. His Diminishing Mao series allowed Tu-2 to explore what might happen if he used his body (his thumb) and his "official identity" (his chop) to create a series of portraits that illustrated how his biology (father and mother) lived in a time of shifting political frameworks in China and Taiwan (Mao always in the background).



Mini Mao (1995)
- Spray paint on canvas / 69"x84"



Father Emerging from Hills
- Pastel on paper/30x24cm (1986)

"Timeless" allowed the artist to delve into his identity across three generations. Images were painted in oils - as Tu-2 processed the tragic death of his grandmother, the untimely death of his father at the age of 34, the memories of a happy childhood that was suddenly plunged into a life of uncertainty and loss at the age of 13. His awakening to spiritual suffering, his recognition of superficial symbols of success, and his determination to search for his life's meaning emerged from this period. Tu-2 realized that the answers he was seeking would not be found outside, but within. Self-taught meditation began.

An assignment to trek Tibet and the Silk Road as a photojournalist was a healing journey that became central to his artistic exploration. He came upon a lake one night when a full moon reflection on the water showed blue and silver. It was the same light he remembered as a 13-year old boy who was brought to his father's body at the mortuary by his uncle. His dead father's face looked silver in the moonlit room. Silver and blue came together in 108 portraits, which taken as one body of work, represents "the one face of humanity." The collection, which took more than 15 years to complete, is a meditation on existence. Because of the extraordinary use of negative space and detail with which the silver pencil portraits are created, the images have been mistaken for photographs.

The margin of marginalization is where healers and lovers of peace are found today. His two near death experiences, one in Asia and one in the U.S. show us where transition, thresholds, transformation happen. We come to understand that all life leads to death and departure.



CAI State LA, Luckman Gallery 2020

Tu-2 lives and works in movement believing that's where the innovativeness of an individual is revealed. Naturally drawn to the hyper-percolation of living, he plays (physically, emotionally, creatively) with child-like energy and curiosity. The sun and moon are his two disco balls, constantly spinning and the energy of the spin defines Tu-2's work.

In last few years, he began experimenting with digital Art. He realized that he could use his fingers instead of a stylus when the battery went out, he explored the capacity of software to produce new colors, he tested the limits of layering, making collages using photography and drawing. The new works show how imagery and imagination play together.

At 69, Yingming Tu ("Tu-2") says, "My name means Sun and Moon...I am today a Taoist, an artist, and grateful to have this life." When asked about the work in this exhibition, he says, "I have no idea how people see my work; I just hope that they can feel something that is not about me, but about themselves."

ROUTE to ROOT: A JOURNEY TO THE CENTER brings serious and playful, simple and complex, beautiful oppositional images imbued with the sincerity of his Hakka roots and indigenous perspective on the human journey.