

Artist Statement

Originally from Taiwan, I started art training in Taipei during my high school years, and have stayed in the field of art and continued painting ever since. Upon my graduation from Chinese Culture University with a major in Western painting in 1985, I worked as a graphic designer and high school art teacher. Later I came to the United States for graduate studies, receiving my MFA in painting from Radford University in 1996 and my Ph.D. in art (with Art Education Emphasis and a dissertation in the area of art history) from University of Georgia in 2003. Over the next 14 years I taught at the University of North Dakota.

Last year, I relocated in the City of Poughkeepsie, working as an independent scholar and artist. After spending most of my life in academia, either as a student or a teacher, I am eager to move onto a different way of living and devoting myself more fully to art making. Immersed in the beauty of Hudson Valley, I have been inspired to develop a new landscape series. Recently, I received a 2019 Individual Artist Commission grant from Arts Mid-Hudson to help launch my new career as a professional artist, as well as to establish my identity as an a painter in the Hudson Valley. Sponsored by this grant, my art exhibition “Neo-Hudson River School Painting” will take place at Trolley Barn, Poughkeepsie, in October, 2019. To further develop my Neo-Hudson River School series over the next few years, I plan to exhibit in different locations within the United States and then hopefully in Asia and beyond.

The blending of East and West is a prominent feature in my art. I received solid foundational art training during my formative years in Taiwan. After leaving my native country and coming to the United States, my art undertook a metamorphosis after I went through cultural shock and assimilation. Freed by the vitality of American abstract expressionist painting, my art took on an unconventional form that fuses East and West influences. However, in the process of acculturation, by breaking rules to reconcile incompatibilities, I have to be tolerant to accidentality and be open-minded enough to “go with flow,” while taking risks to cope with uncertainty. As a result, although my art reflects my cultural background and life experiences in two countries, it is no longer confined by any strict traditions.