

NEWS

BRIEF

photographs from January 24 through February 20, 2010. Spanning 40 years of Raghu Rai's career as a photo-journalist, this exhibition will comprise never-before-seen images taken from both old and new works.

It will feature Rai's milestone series documenting Mother Teresa's life and work from 1970 until her death in 1997, including her funeral procession.

Also to be exhibited are his images of the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama and Tibetans in exile, the horrors of the Bhopal gas disaster and more.

Born in 1942 in a village that is now part of Pakistan, Rai took up photography seriously after one of his photographs was published in *The Times* in 1966. "It sort of tickled me and soon photography became a passion. It was just by chance, not that I wanted to become a photographer," Rai says. He started off with the box camera presented to him by his brother.

Impressed by his photographs at an exhibition in Paris, Henri Cartier-Bresson invited him to join Magnum Photos in 1977.

Raghu Rai once said, "Photography at its best goes far beyond the style of an individual, like the spirit—the soul—and it need not always be explained."

Aicon Gallery London is located at 8 Heddon Street, London, W1B 4BU. Tel: (44-20) 7734 7575.

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SINGAPORE

Masters On Paper

S.Bin Art Plus will present *Modern Masters on Paper*, January 23 through February 28, 2010. This exhibition brings together two important figures in the Southeast Asian modern art world—Lee Man Fong and Siauw Tik Kwie.



Raghu Rai, On a Train to Darjeeling, 1995. Image copyright © Raghu Rai; Courtesy of Aicon Gallery London.



Raghu Rai, Wrestlers under Hawrah Bridge, Kolkata, 2004. Image copyright © Raghu Rai; Courtesy of Aicon Gallery London.

Lee Man Fong and Siauw Tik Kwie were the founders of *Yin Hua* or *Mei Shu Yen Tsiu Hui*, an organization for Chinese artists in Indonesia, of which they were principal and co-principal respectively. Never before seen in public, these works on paper provide an insight into their friendship, daily surroundings, and influences on each other.

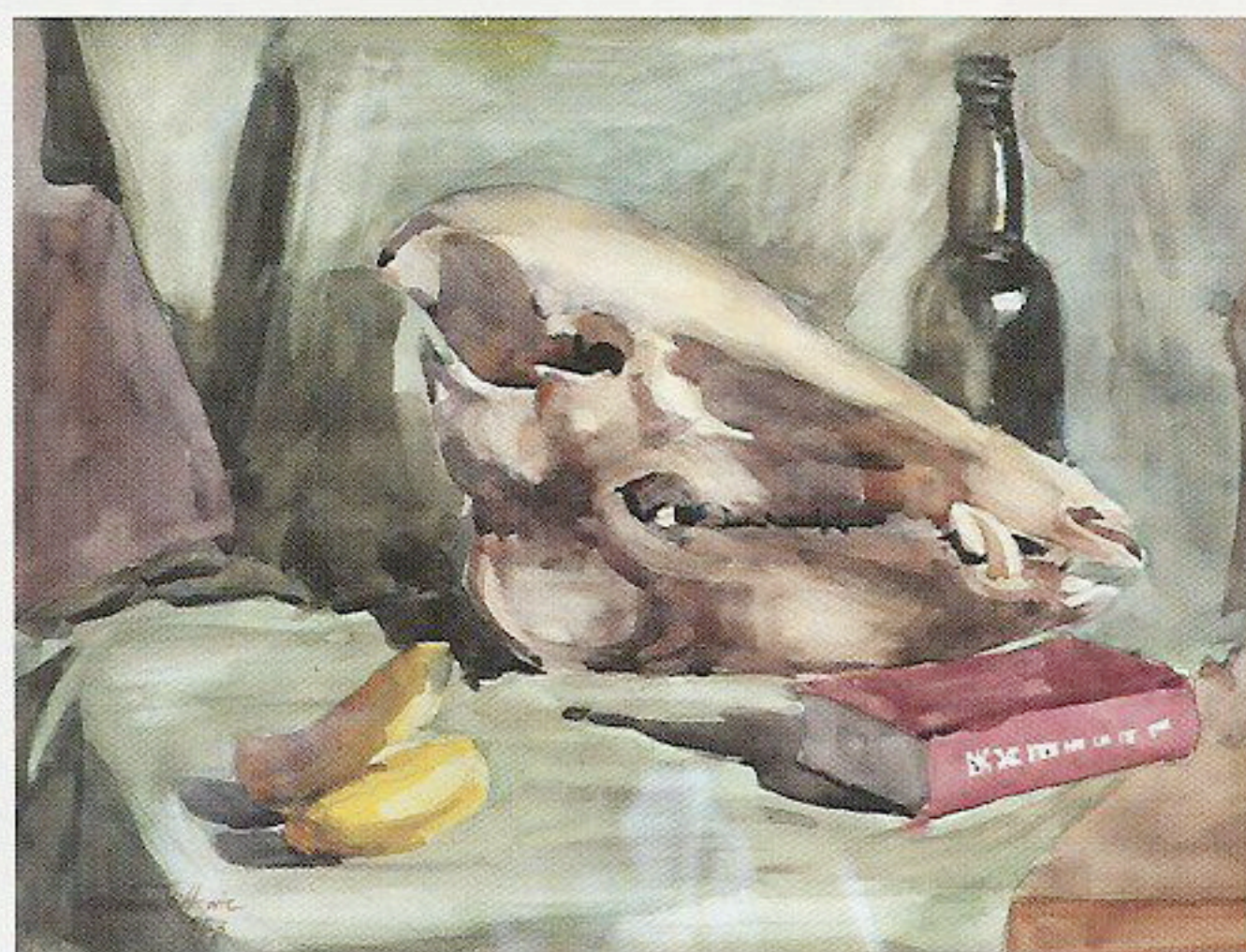
Lee concentrated on subjects such as Balinese dancers and villagers while Siauw was intrigued by village scenes, still life objects, and the occasional villagers themselves. This exhibition is an accumulation of both artists' works from 1931 to 1965 when Lee was invited to remain in Singapore after the political coup in Jakarta.

Lee's *Portrait of a Woman* (1943) and Siauw's *Portrait of a Boy* (1941) display much resemblance in technique and method, though their styles are distinguishable. Rare works include Lee's *Amsterdam* (1948), which is a drawing of the city done during his scholarship studies in Europe.

Sketches and other works on paper can take the viewer close to the mind and working methods of the artist. This retrospective exhibition of works on paper also provides a stepping-stone to collecting modern art.

Lee Man Fong (1913–1988) was born in Guangzhou, China, in 1913. His family emigrated to Singapore in 1916, where he learnt both Chinese painting (Lingnan style) and Western oil painting. In 1932, he left Singapore for Indonesia. For the next 35 years in the country, he became President Soekarno's art advisor, created the Yin Hua Group, and won numerous awards, which grant him to study in Europe. He exhibited in Amsterdam, Paris, Singapore, and Jakarta before his death in 1988.

Siauw Tik Kwie (1913–1988), also called Otto Suastika, was born in 1913 in Surakarta, Indonesia. In 1930, he met the religious leaders of Tridharma and was invited to relocate to Jakarta to assist in publishing their magazine. In Jakarta, he



Above left: Lee Man Fong, Self Portrait, 1977, 55 x 38 cm. Above right: Siauw Tik Kwie, Still Life with Skull of a Cow Head, Bananas, Bottle and a Book, 1953, watercolor on paper, 28 x 36 cm. Images: Courtesy of S.Bin Art Plus.