



PROLOGUE:

Contemporary calligraphy is a visual expression of mind. Thus there are potentially as many expressions as there are minds. While this may seem aesthetically intimidating, such possibility reflects the milieu in which modern calligraphers work.

It is in this spirit that Dr. Sun Wuk Kim, the founding president of Art of Ink in America Society (AIAS), has promoted the expressive quality of ink and has encouraged the inclusion of abstract and avant-garde works of art. As a consequence, during his fifteen-year leadership, the Society has exhibited in East Asia, Europe, and North America and has grown to include ink artists from China, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Taiwan, and the United States. Our Society celebrates many different ink-forms and the innovative techniques that create them. This year, joined by Thai artists, we continue to expand our aesthetic vision.

It is particularly meaningful to have our show in Thailand, whose history is steeped in the profound richness of Buddhist culture. It is also significant that we are exhibiting in Chiang Mai, a city filled with art and beauty. It is my hope that this exhibition can be a cultural, professional, and personal bridge for artists and devotees of art. Together as friends and colleagues we can establish and strengthen understanding and goodwill throughout the world. This exhibit and catalog are vehicles for sharing our unique cultural identities, artistic forms, and aesthetic visions.

Our Society is dedicated to: (1) promoting the art and appreciation of contemporary calligraphy, (2) generating an understanding of the different cultural expressions of calligraphy, (3) facilitating a dialogue between traditional calligraphy and new technologies, and (4) promoting wider access and understanding of the art and aesthetics of calligraphy.

This catalog, "Art of Ink in America 2011/12", includes work from twenty-seven AIAS member artists and five invitational Thai artists. Some artists are exhibiting two works, but only one per artist is included in the catalog. From here, the AIAS member portion of the exhibit will travel to New York City and to Manhasset, Long Island, NY.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Faculty of Fine Arts, Chiang Mai University. I wish to especially thank Associate Professors PongdejChaiyakut (Dean), SomkiatTangnamo, WoralunBoonyasurat, and PadungsakKochsomrong; Ms. JunvimolKeawsansai (International Relations Officer) for making this exhibition possible; and Mr. ChaiyanKomkaew for installing the exhibition. I personally express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ronald Y. Nakasone for his insight and energy in helping to organize this exhibition, and to Ms. Susan Frame for her help in getting this catalog published.

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President
Art of Ink in America Society