

张柳仙

HIDDEN GEMS

The Life Works of Chong Liew Syn

OPENING

JAN 19, FRIDAY

HOAN
GALLERY

La Promenade
MALL

FOREWORD

CHONG Liew Syn founded the Sarawak Fine Arts School in 1975. It was the first private art institute to gain Government's accreditation in this region.

Graduates of Chong's three-year programme could use their certificates to get jobs at schools as art teachers locally and overseas.

For over two decades until Chong passed away in 1999 (*at just 50 years old*), the school produced hundreds of artists, including many contemporary artists, captains of industries, politicians and even scientists, who reside from Sarawak to the US.

It is fair to say Chong had an outsized impact on Sarawak's art development, and her legacy will last beyond lifetimes.

Hidden Gems: The Life Works of Chong Liew Syn at Hoan Gallery is a career spanning art show. It is the late Chong's first posthumous art show, and lovingly put together by the gallery's Hoan Kee Huang and her students.

Students first approached Chong's family in 2015 about staging a show for their beloved teacher. From the family collection, around 300 art pieces were recovered, each carefully restored and archived.

Chong's paint palettes, tubes of oil paint, brushes and original frames are also featured in this show.

Paintings include works from Chong's student days in Hong Kong in the 1970s, the transformation of her art style across decades, until her very last piece painted in 1998.

"The gallery, with the aid of Hock Seng Lee, has been working on Chong's show for almost a decade," said gallery director Hoan Kee Huang.

"Chong's son, Ken Loh, has opened up the family archive and allowed us the privilege to sift through important never-seen-before works. There are real gems, historical and significant to Sarawak's art scene, that we've recovered," Hoan said.

In this show are watercolours, oil paintings and acrylic pieces. Hoan noted Chong's still life paintings and landscapes were particularly beautiful.

"Chong art pieces, like herself, are full of warmth, honesty and beauty. She's a master of shading and light. She's painted some beautiful sunsets of long disappeared riverine scenes, demolished markets in old Kuching, and the most lovingly captured still life of humble market produce."

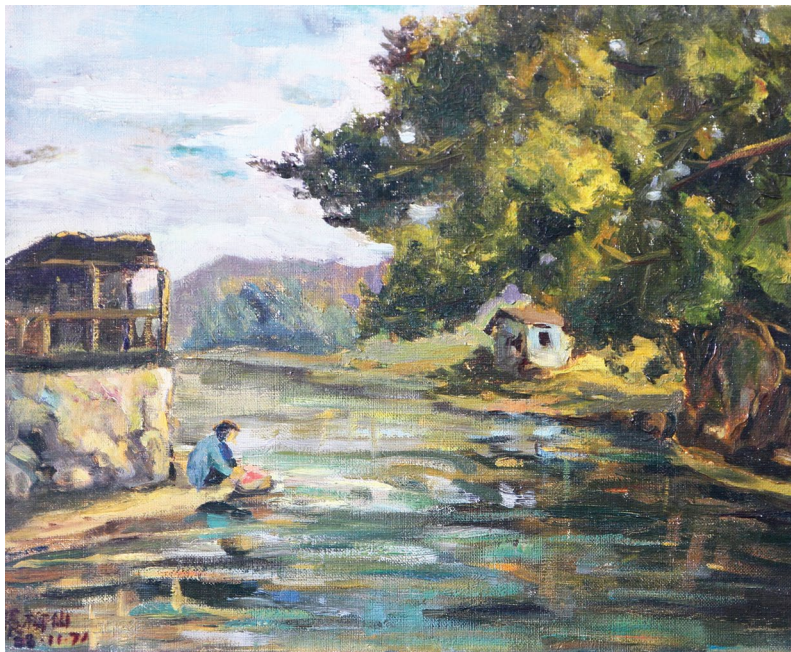
HOAN
GALLERY

HIDDEN GEMS The Life Works of Chong Liew Syn 1949 - 1999



1970s

Born in China and an undergraduate of the Hong Kong Fine Arts School, this show begins with Chong's student works in the 1970s. Early morning landscapes and scenery of Hong Kong are standouts.



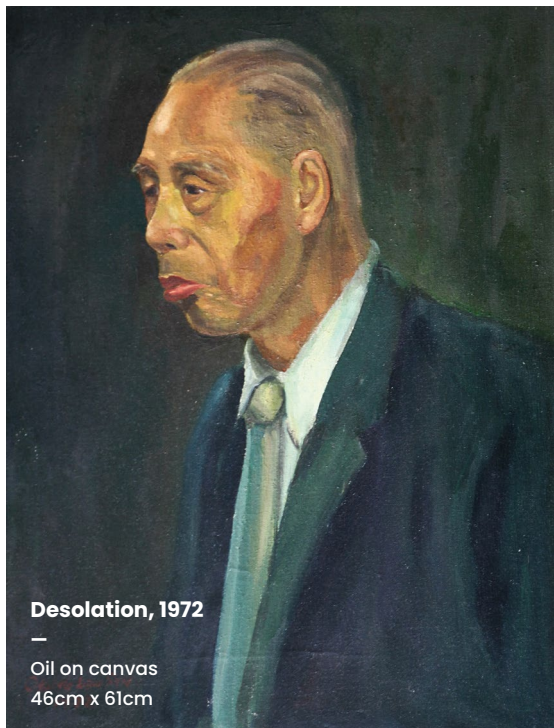
→
Early Morning View, 1971

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



↑ **A View from My Village, 1972**

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



Desolation, 1972

—
Oil on canvas
46cm x 61cm



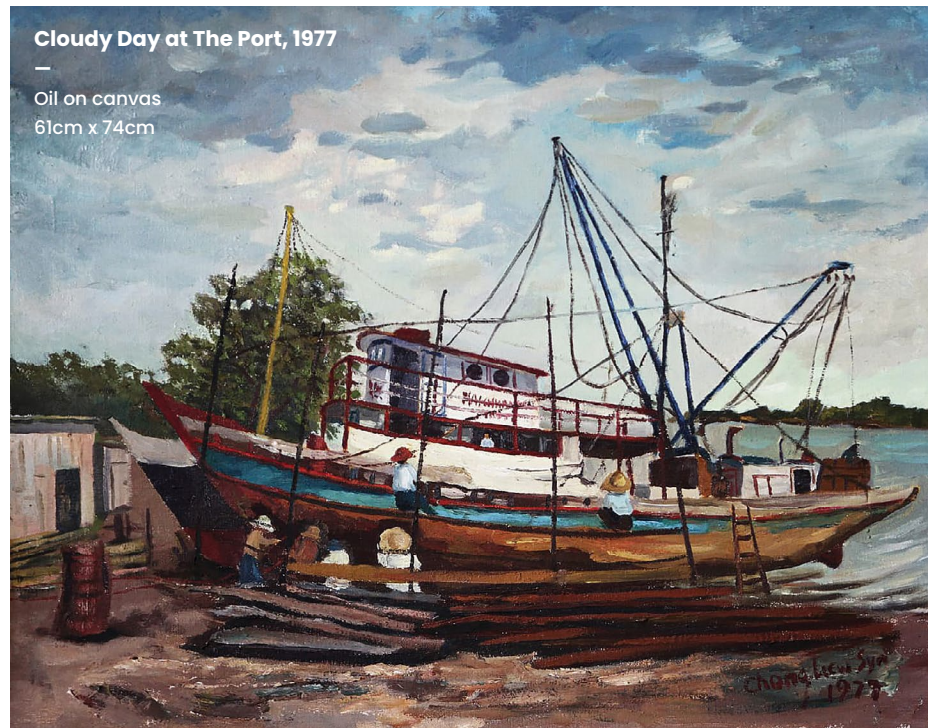
↑ **The Beauty of Artistry, 1972**

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



↑ **Sunlit Radiance of Yellow Flowers, 1975**

—
Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm



Cloudy Day at The Port, 1977

—
Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm



←
Fun Times Along The River, 1977

—
Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm

1980s

Diversifying from oil paintings, Chong began to paint watercolours in this decade. Flowers, still-life of market produce (including remarkably lifelike fishes) are favourites of Chong during this time. Works from this decade include many long lost scenes of old Kuching.



←
Blue Hydrangea, 1980

—
Oil on canvas
46cm x 61cm



→
Cloudy Day, 1977

—
Watercolour
38.1cm x 57cm



←
Kuching Summer House, 1984

—
Watercolour
36cm x 54.3cm



←
A Long Day at Work, 1979

—
Watercolour
37cm x 55cm



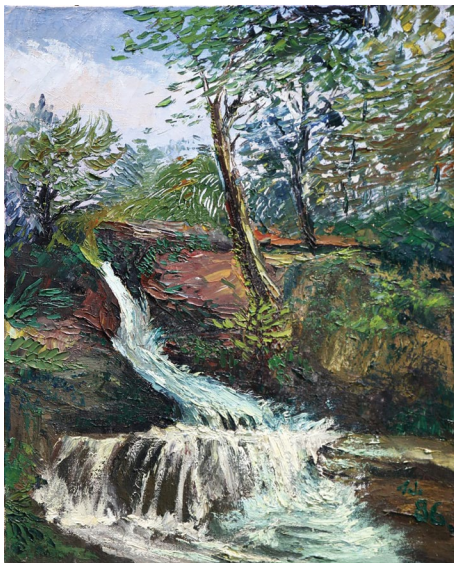
→
Midday View, 1984

—
Watercolour
56cm x 76.2cm



↑ **Ethereal Blush, 1985**

—
Watercolour
56cm x 76.2cm



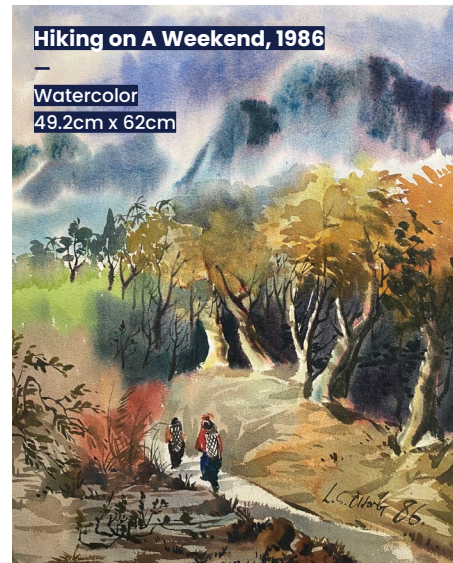
↑ **Cascade, 1986**

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



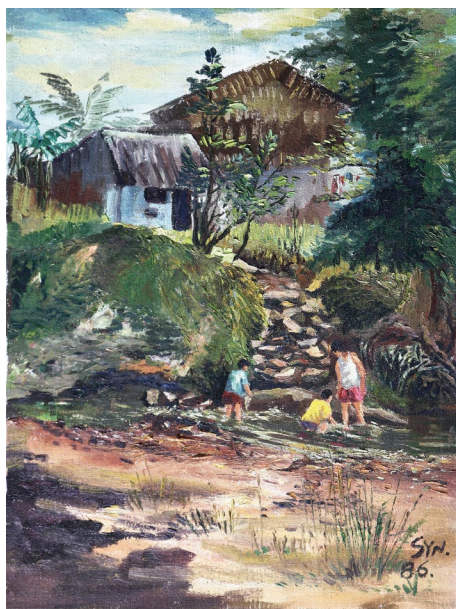
↑ **Mellow, 1986**

—
Watercolour
49.2cm x 62.4cm



Hiking on A Weekend, 1986

—
Watercolor
49.2cm x 62cm



↑ **Uphill, 1986**

—
Oil on canvas
46cm x 61cm



→
Reliving the Past, 1986

—
Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm



↓ **Tomatoes and Fishes, 1986**

—
Watercolour
48.2cm x 62cm

←
Entrance of Important House, 1986

—
Watercolour
50.8cm x 63.5cm



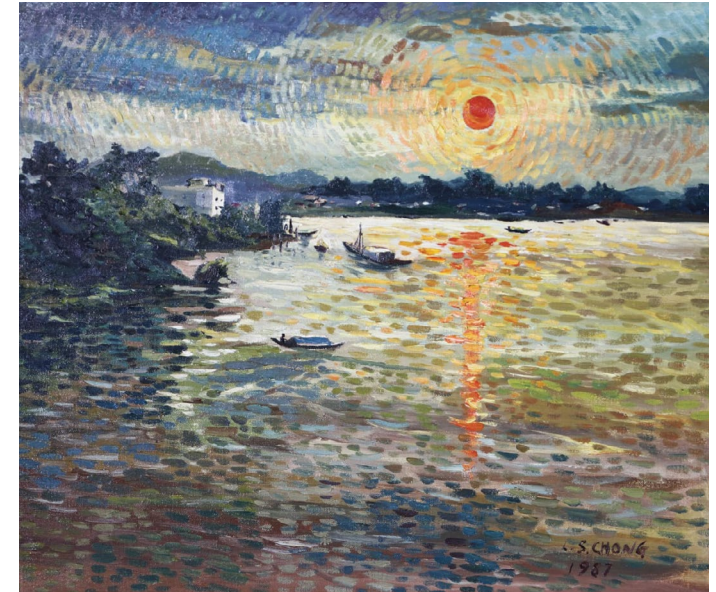
↑ **Herd of Goats, 1987**

Oil on canvas
72cm x 91.4cm



→ **Sunday Market Scene, 1987**

Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



↑ **Sunset by Sarawak River, 1987**

Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm



↑ **Sunflower, 1987**

Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm



↑ **Paddy Harvest, 1987**

Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



↑ **Market Fish, 1987**

Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



↑ **Catch of The Day, 1988**

Oil on canvas
72cm x 91.4cm



↑ **Urban Nature, 1988**

—
Watercolour
37cm x 56cm

↓ **Blooming Bells in White, 1988**

—
Oil on canvas
46cm x 61cm



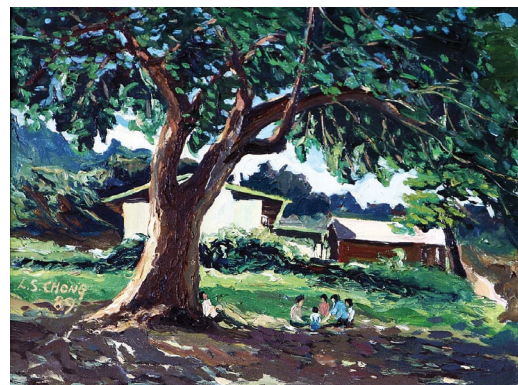
← **A Morning Stroll with Mum, 1989**

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



A Morning Walk, 1989

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



↑ **Leisure Under the Tree, 1989**

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



↑ **Roses by Dear Mum, 1989**

—
Oil on canvas
46cm x 61cm

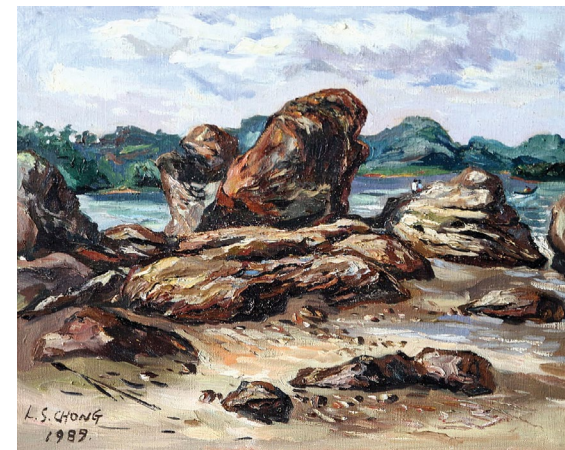
↓ **Rising Sun, 1989**

—
Watercolour
56cm x 75cm



↓ **Rocks by the Shoreline, 1989**

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



1990s

Masterful oil paint artworks were produced in Chong's middle age. Morning walks, rocks by the shoreline and mangroves take their place next to portraits. Chong painted and taught at her school throughout her illness.



↑ Dockyard, 1990

Oil on canvas
51cm x 61cm



↑ Across the Field, 1990

Oil on canvas
61cm x 91.4cm



← Lady in Kebaya, 1990

Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm



← Sampan by the River, 1990

Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



Goldfish, 1990

Oil on canvas
61cm x 91.4cm



↑ Paddy Farming, 1990

Oil on canvas
51cm x 61cm



↓ Roadside Stall, 1990

Oil on canvas
51cm x 61cm



← Village House, 1990

Oil on canvas
51cm x 61cm



↑ **Slow Living, 1990**

Watercolour
25.4cm x 30.4cm



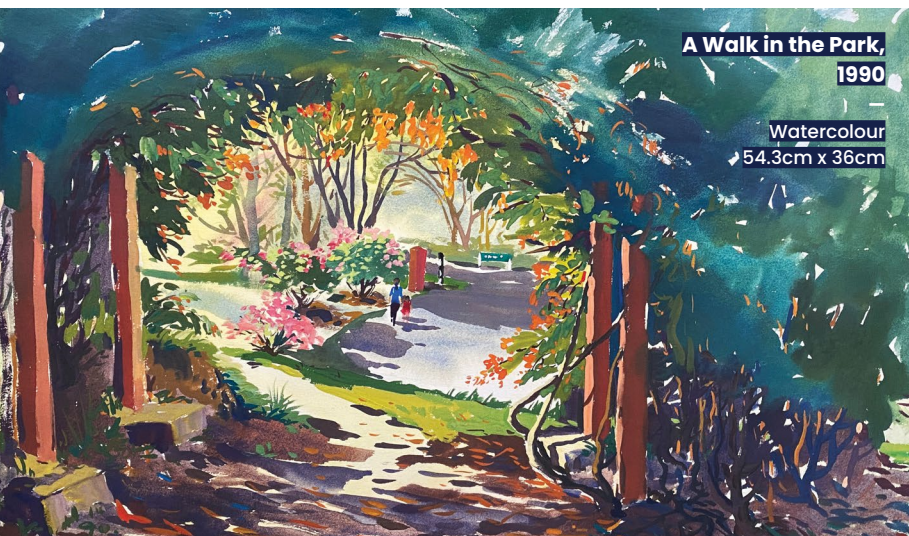
↑ **Sampans, 1990**

Watercolour
39cm x 54.3cm



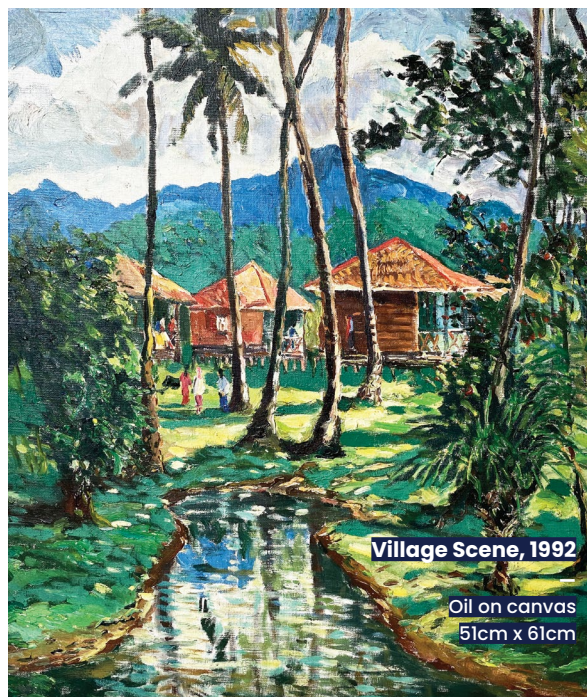
← **Weekend Gateway, 1990**

Watercolour
25.4cm x 30.4cm



A Walk in the Park, 1990

Watercolour
54.3cm x 36cm



Village Scene, 1992

Oil on canvas
51cm x 61cm



← **Vegetable Harvesting, 1991**

Oil on canvas
51cm x 61cm



→ **The Blossoming of Purple Elegance, 1991**

Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm

↓ **Symphony of Nature, 1992**

Oil on canvas
51cm x 61cm





↑ **Purity, 1994**

—
Oil on canvas
41cm x 51cm



↑ **Corns and Rose Apples, 1995**

—
Oil on canvas
61cm x 74cm



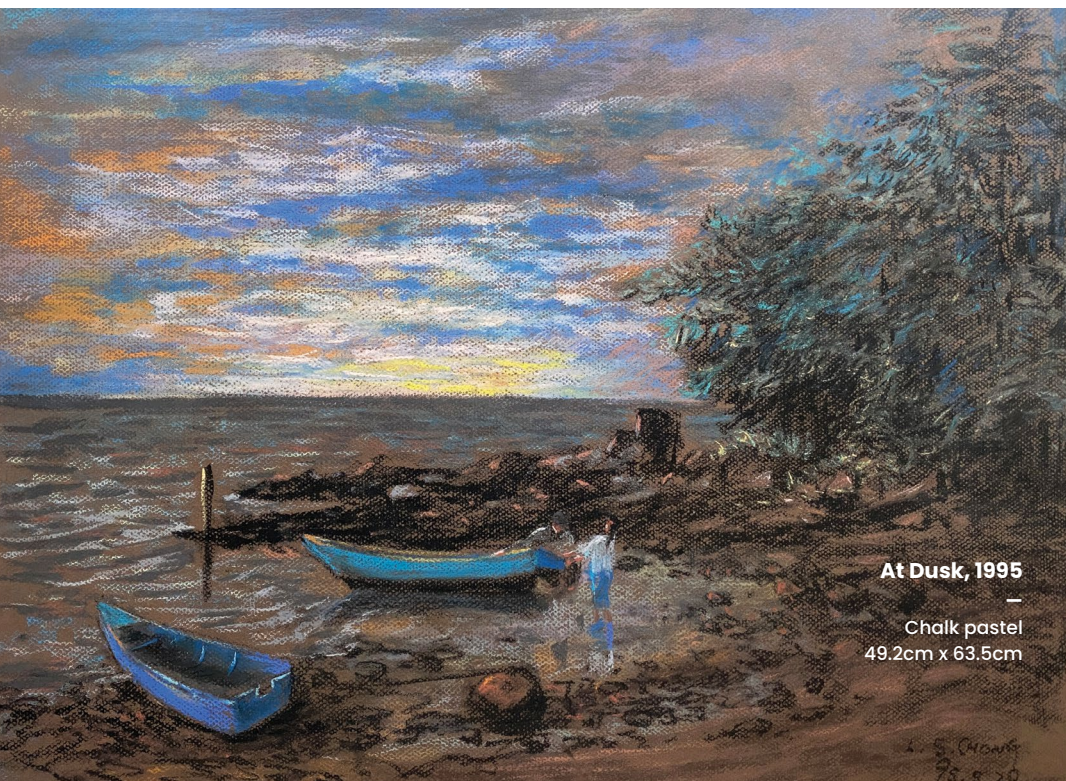
↑ **Whispers of Alabaster Blooms, 1995**

—
Oil on canvas
61cm x 122cm



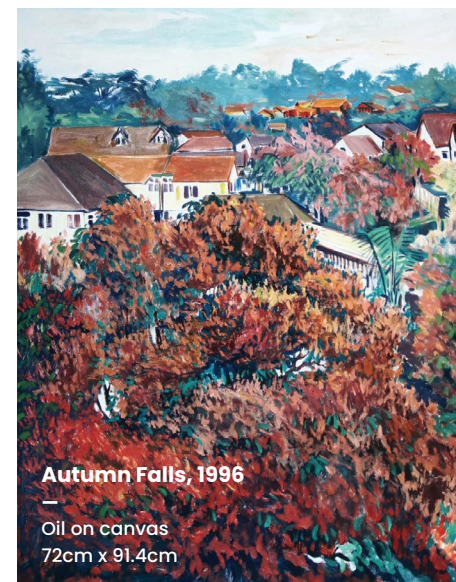
↑ **The Alley, 1995**

—
Oil on canvas
51cm x 61cm



At Dusk, 1995

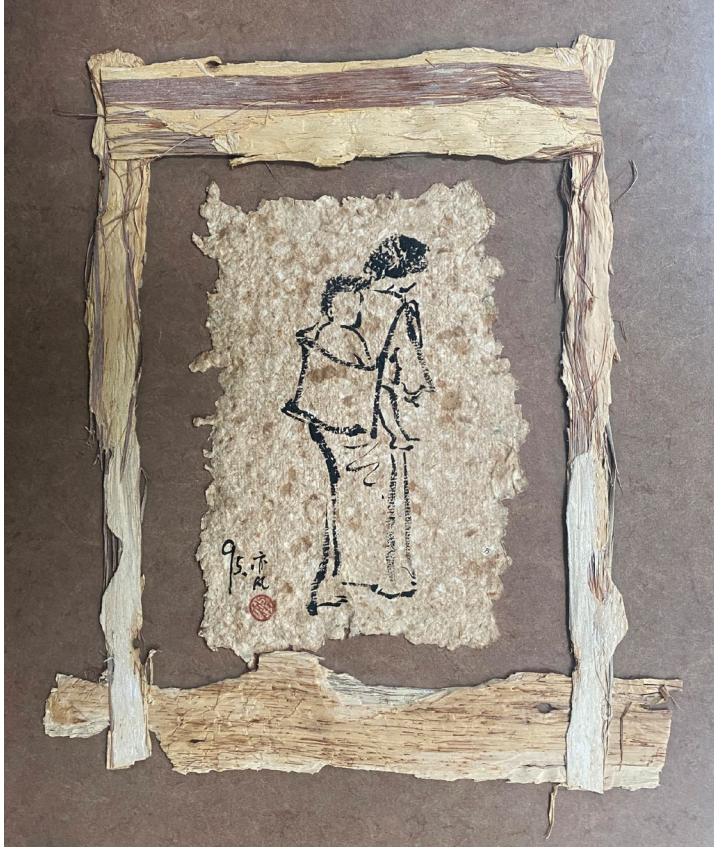
—
Chalk pastel
49.2cm x 63.5cm



Autumn Falls, 1996

—
Oil on canvas
72cm x 91.4cm

→
Motherhood,
1995
—
Mix media
46cm x 57.4cm



↓
Tranquil Connection,
1997
—
Acrylic on canvas
66cm x 66cm



↑
Nature Shrouded in Haze,
1997
—
Acrylic on canvas
66cm x 66cm



↑
Texture, 1996
—
Mix media
44.1cm x 58.4cm



←
Springtime Blossom,
1997
—
Acrylic on canvas
66cm x 66cm

→
Pendulous Florals, 1997

—
Mix media
49cm x 64cm



Her last piece,
White Blossoms, is a
magnificent oil on canvas.

Likely painted in a single-session,
it reflects Chong's teaching that
paintings should be of a time,
painted in the moment.

↓ **White Blossoms, 1998**

—
Oil on canvas
80cm x 61cm



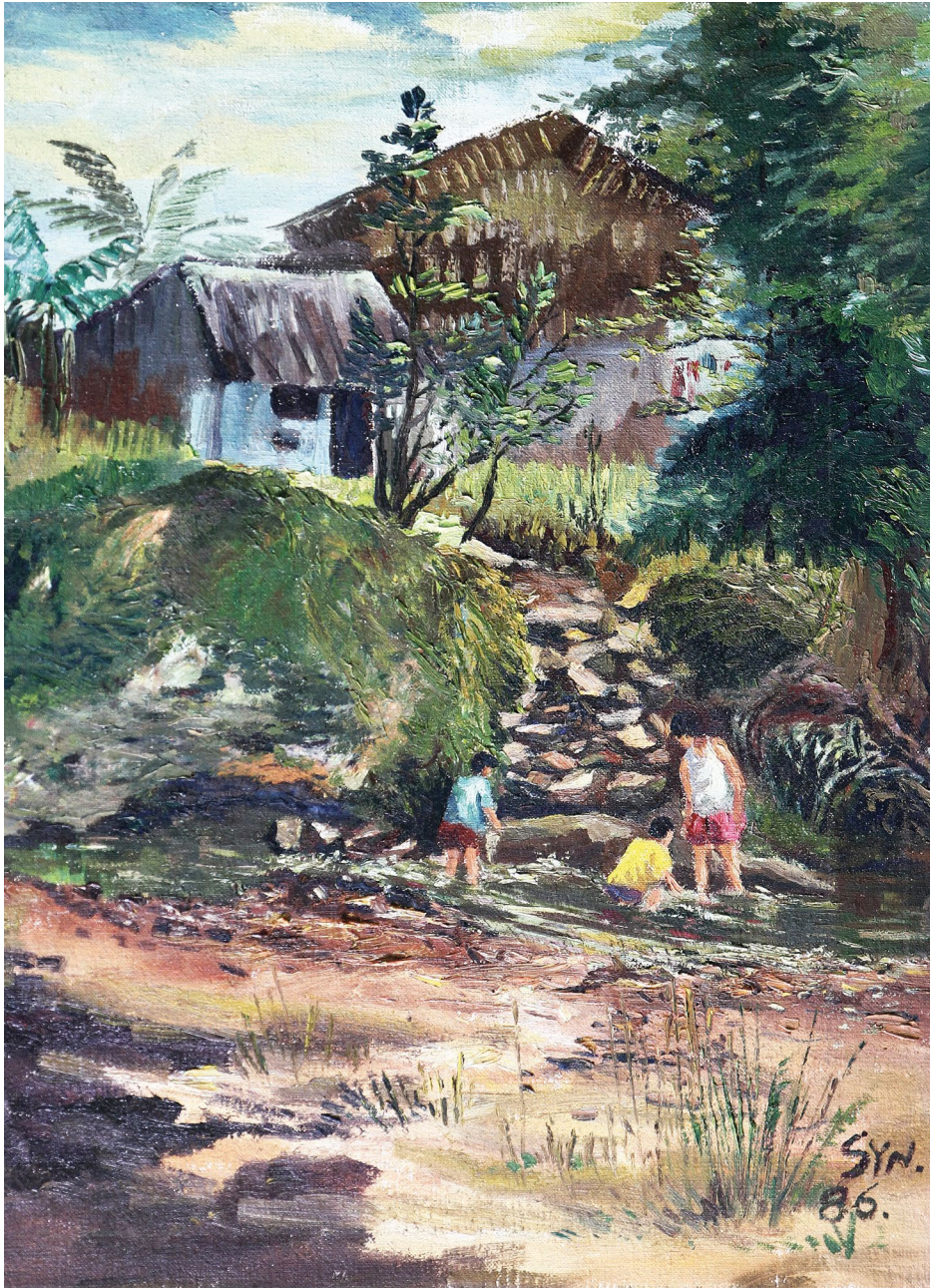
Hoan Gallery, by Kee Huang, is a passion
project of patience and paint.

Discover the works of Sarawakian artists,
past and present, in our gallery. Visitors
will see people and places, from unique

perspectives, depicted in oil, acrylic
paint, watercolour, Chinese ink and
nearly lost traditional Batik techniques.

This gallery aspires to promote past
masters and reveal future potential.





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