

The Bodhi Stand



Introducing Lui Tai

呂媿

Born and schooled in Guangsyi Province in China, Lui Tai settled in Hong Kong with her family in 1949. Her husband was a well-known Chinese scholar and writer, but Lui Tai gained recognition on her own as a critic, playwright, and essayist. It was calligraphy, however, in which she achieved particular distinction. In 1966 she made her debut in a joint Hong Kong / Japan calligraphy exhibition. In 1971, a one-woman exhibition of her calligraphy and painting drew praise from the local art community and firmly established her in a career of teaching, painting and calligraphy in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. After another highly acclaimed one-woman show in 1975, she began a series of successful tours abroad, representing Hong Kong as one of its foremost calligraphers. Her tours took her to Singapore in 1976, Ipoh and Penang in Malaysia in 1977, London in 1978, Rome and Milan in 1980, Singapore and London in 1981, and Manila and Paris in 1982. She is recognized as one of the most prominent calligraphers of our era, and is known for her robust style and free-flowing brushwork.

In 1983, Lui Tai was invited to America for a joint Exhibition in Northern California. She came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for three weeks, during which time she held a show at Wonderful New Fine Arts College, Dharma Realm Buddhist University. Lui Tai excels in several styles of calligraphy, such as the "hsing" (行 running) style, the "li" (隸 ancient clerical style and the "grass" (草 cursive) style--considered to be the most expressive as an art form. As creations flow forth unimpeded from her brush, one cannot

help but reflect upon the years of hard work and discipline that have gone into the perfection of her art. What happens now is a fusion of hand, heart and eyes so finely tuned that it manifests as rhythmic, pulsating strokes which spring effortlessly from the deep resources of the artist's mind.

In 1988, Lui Tai accepted an appointment as full professor at the Fine Arts College of Dharma Realm Buddhist University. During the Graduation Ceremony in August, 1988, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Chinese Culture by the University. She teaches on-going courses in calligraphy, well attended by the local community. She is also a Lecturer on Chinese Literature and Philosophy. Lui Tai is deeply committed to the combination of Practical Ethics and Buddhist teachings in education. She finds the teaching techniques at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas novel and challenging, "This is an ideal way of introducing traditional Ethical values to the West. If technology can work hand-in-hand with age-old philosophical systems, then we are much closer to realizing international understanding and cooperation, wisdom and true free-dom."



A sample of Pro. Lui Tai's calligraphy: the character "pure and true." (清真)