

About Hsiao Chin

Son of Xiao Youmei, founder of the Shanghai Music Academy, the first music academy in China, Hsiao Chin was born in 1935 in Shanghai. In 1949, he moved to Taiwan with his uncle. In 1952, Hsiao began his artistic studies under the tutelage of Li Chun-Sen, and started the first Chinese abstract art organisation,

Ton-Fan Art Group, in 1955. In July 1956, Hsiao Chin received a scholarship from the Spanish government and participated in the Jazz Salon Exhibition in Barcelona in 1957, and was elected as one of the ten best emerging artists. In 1959, Hsiao first exhibited in galleria Numero in Italy and subsequently moved to Milan.

Starting in the 1960's, Hsiao founded several important modern art movements in Europe. In August 1961, Hsiao began *Movimento Punto*, an art movement that emphasised the universality of art, free from the limitations of space, time and trends. Art, in this sense, is an inwards quest of the artist, rather than an external pursuit. In 1977, Hsiao founded the *Surya Movement* (Sanskrit for Sun) with 8 other artists from six nationalities, advocating active exchange among different fields of artistic practices to achieve a form of international consensus. In 1989, Hsiao initiated the *Shakti Movement*, drawing inspirations from the wealth of energy within nature itself.

Aside from artistic creation, Hsiao also acted as a professor at institutes such as Long Island University, Istituto Europeo di Design in Milan, Louisiana State University and the Academy of Fine Arts, Urbino. In 1990, Hsiao's daughter Samantha passed away, prompting him to create the subsequent series *Passage Through the Great Threshold*, elaborating on his newly found understanding of life.

Hsiao Chin's abstract art works are highly commended internationally. He has had retrospectives at National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (1992), Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, Hangzhou China Academy of Arts (1994) (also his first time exhibiting in China), National Art Museum of China, Taipei Fine Arts Museum (1995), Shanghai Art Museum (2004), (2006), and the Milan Triennale (2009).

Hsiao's achievements were highly recognised by the Italian institutions, and was included as the only Asian artist in the 1997 major retrospective of modern masters by the Milan government.

Master artist Hsiao Chin is celebrated as the pioneer of modern abstract art in Taiwan, and is widely recognised in both Eastern and Western art scenes for his major contribution to the development of Chinese modern abstract art.

Hsiao has had solo exhibitions across, Europe, North America and Greater China. Select institutional solo exhibitions include: National Museum of History and Lungmen Art Gallery, Taipei (1978); Taipei Fine Arts Museum (1985); Faenza, Galleria Comunale Molinella (1994); Florence, Galleria Il Ponte (1998) and Museo Civico, Villa Colloredo Mels (2005).

Hsiao's works are in the permanent collections of: Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum & The Public Library, New York; Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome; National Art Museum of China, Beijing; Staatgalerie – Stuttgart, Germany; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia; Museo de Arte Moderno, Barcelona, Spain; Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei; National Museum of History, Taipei and the Shanghai Museum of Art, Shanghai.