



CHINA
2000
FINE
ART

THE MASTER AND THE WENDERS

Encountering Master Zhu Qizhan

We opened our gallery in New York City in 1980 with an exhibition of 15 paintings by various contemporary artists bought from a Hong Kong collector. The youngest of the group, Chen Peiqiu, the only artist alive today, is still painting at 94. In that show we had 2 paintings by Zhu Qizhan, born in 1892 and 89 at the time. We first made contact with him in Guangzhou, China in 1983 but were unable to meet because the city's telephone system broke down. So we wrote him a letter expressing our appreciation for his painting. In 1986, he traveled to New York (where his daughter was living) and phoned for a visit to our gallery (New York City telephones were working fine.) He came with his wife, daughter and son-in-law, and son and daughter-in-law. He was very grateful for our letter, and we got along famously. We brought him to the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. He brought us some paintings so we could put together a small exhibition. We alerted ABC News that a famous 95 year old Master artist was visiting from China, and they filmed him painting in our gallery. He appeared on ABC's The Big Apple Minute.

A photographer working for *Newsweek* shot his portrait, and the magazine gave him a write-up with his picture: *Newsweek* (March 24, 1986) Newsmakers, p. 80. We sold all the paintings from his first exhibition, and followed up with annual exhibitions and catalogs until he passed away in 1996. Our exhibit in March 2016 will be the



third since he passed. Zhu never returned to New York, but we visited with him several times a year at his home in Shanghai for the 10 years that remained to him. We were there for his 100th birthday celebration and his 105th birthday celebration when the Shanghai government opened the Zhu Qizhan Museum in his honor. Our gallery was the first, and for many years the only gallery, to hold one-person exhibitions for a master Chinese artist. In the field of Chinese painting, our gallery is well-known for the work we did with Zhu Qizhan and for promoting Chinese art and culture in America since its launch in 1980.