照耀歷史的美術家風采

臺灣的美術,有完整紀錄可查者,只能追溯至日治時代的臺展、府展時期。日治時代的美術運動,是邁向近代美術的黎明時期,有著啟蒙運動的意義,是新的文化思想萌芽至成長的時代。

臺灣美術的主要先驅者,大致分為二大支流:其一是黃土水、陳澄波、陳植棋,以及顏水龍、廖繼春、陳進、李石樵、楊三郎、呂鐵洲、張萬傳、洪瑞麟、陳德旺、陳敬輝、林玉山、劉啟祥等人,都是留日或曾留日再留法研究,且崛起於日本或法國主要畫展的畫家。而另一支流為以石川欽一郎所栽培的學生為中心,如倪蔣懷、藍蔭鼎、李澤藩等人,但前述留日的畫家中,留日前多人也曾受石川之指導。這些都是當時直接參與「赤島社」、「臺灣水彩畫會」、「臺陽美術協會」、「臺灣造型美術協會」等美術團體展,對臺灣美術的拓展有過汗馬功勞的人。

自清代,就有不少工書善畫人士來臺客寓,並留下許多作品。而近代臺灣美術的開路先鋒們, 則大多有著清晰的師承脈絡,儘管當時國畫和西畫壁壘分明,但在日本繪畫風格遺緒影響下,也出 現了東洋畫風格的國畫;而這些,都是構成臺灣美術發展的最重要部分。

臺灣美術史的研究,是在1970年代中後期,隨著鄉土運動的興起而勃發。當時研究者關注的對象,除了明清時期的傳統書畫家以外,主要集中在日治時期「新美術運動」的一批前輩美術家身上,儘管他們曾一度蒙塵,如今已如暗夜中的明星,照耀著歷史無垠的夜空。

戰後的臺灣,是一個多元文化交錯、衝擊與融合的歷史新階段。臺灣美術家驚人的才華,也在特殊歷史時空的催迫下,展現出屬於臺灣自身獨特的風格與內涵。日治時期前輩美術家持續創作的影響,以及國府來臺帶來的中國各省移民的新文化,尤其是大量傳統水墨畫家的來臺;再加上臺灣對西方現代美術新潮,特別是美國文化的接納吸收。也因此,戰後臺灣的美術發展,展現了做為一個文化主體,高度活絡與多元並呈的特色,匯聚成臺灣美術史的長河。

「家庭美術館——美術家傳記叢書」於民國81年起陸續策劃編印出版,網羅20世紀以來活躍於臺灣藝術界的前輩美術家,涵蓋面遍及視覺藝術諸領域,累積當代人對臺灣前輩美術家成就的認知與肯定,闡述彼等在臺灣美術史上承先啟後的貢獻,是重要的藝術經典。同時,更是大眾了解臺灣美術、認識臺灣美術史的捷徑,也是學子及社會人士閱讀美術家創作精華的最佳叢書。

美術家的創作結晶,對國家社會及人生都有很重要的價值。優美藝術作品能美化國家社會的環境,淨化人類的心靈,更是一國文化的發展指標;而出版「美術家傳記」則是厚實文化基底的首要工作,也讓中華民國美術發展的結晶,成為豐饒的文化資產。

Artistic Glory Illumines Taiwan's History

The development of fine arts in modern Taiwan can be traced back to the Taiwan Fine Art Exhibition and the Taiwan Government Fine Art Exhibition during the Japanese Occupation, when the art movement following the spirit of the Enlightenment, brought about the dawn of modern art, with impetus and fodder for culture cultivation in Taiwan.

On the whole, pioneers of Taiwan's modern art comprise two groups: one includes Huang Tu-shui, Chen Chengpo, Chen Chih-chi, as well as Yen Shui-long, Liao Chi-chun, Chen Chin, Li Shih-chiao, Yang San-lang, Lu Tieh-chou, Chang Wan-chuan, Hong Jui-lin, Chen Te-wang, Chen Ching-hui, Lin Yu-shan, and Liu Chi-hsiang who studied in Japan, some also in France, and built their fame in major exhibitions held in the two countries. The other group comprises students of Ishikawa Kin'ichiro, including Ni Chiang-huai, Lan Yin-ting, and Li Tse-fan. Significantly, many of the first group had also studied in Taiwan with Ishikawa before going overseas. As members of the Ruddy Island Association, Taiwan Watercolor Society, Tai-Yang Art Society, and Taiwan Association of Plastic Arts, they are the main contributors to the development of Taiwan art.

As early as the Qing Dynasty, experts in calligraphy and painting had come to Taiwan and produced many works. Most of the pioneering Taiwanese artists at that time had their own teachers. Contrasting as Chinese and Western painting might be, the influence of Japanese painting can be seen in a number of the Chinese paintings of the time. Together, they form the core of Taiwan art.

Research in the history of Taiwan art began in the mid- and late- 1970s, following the rise of the Nativist Movement. Apart from traditional ink painting of the Ming and Qing dynasties, researchers also focus on the precursors of the New Art Movement that arose under Japanese suzerainty. Since then, these painters had become the center of attention, shining as stars in the galaxy of history.

Postwar Taiwan is in a new phase of history when diverse cultures interweave, clash and integrate. Remarkably talented, Taiwanese artists of the time cultivated a style and content of their own. Artists since Retrocession (1945) faced new cultures from Chinese provinces brought to the island by the government, the immigration of mainland artists of traditional ink painting, as well as the introduction of Western trends in modern art, especially those informed by American culture, gave rise to a postwar art of cultural awareness, dynamic energy, and diversity, adding to the history of Taiwan art.

In order to organize the historical archives of Taiwan art, My Home, My Art Museum: Biographies of Taiwanese Artists, a series that recounts the stories of senior Taiwanese artists of various fields active in the 20th century, has been compiled and published since 1992. Accumulating recognition and acknowledgement for them and analyzing their contributions to the development of Taiwan art, it is a classical series of Taiwan art, a shortcut for us to understand the spirit and history of Taiwan art, and a good way for both students and non-specialists to look into the world of creative art.

Art creation has important value for the country and society from which it springs, and for the individuals who create or appreciate it. More than embellishing our environment and cleansing our souls, a fine work of art serves as an index of the cultural status of a country. As the groundwork of cultural development, publication of the biographies of these artists contributes to Taiwan art a gem shining in our cultural heritage.