



QIJU QILIN

solo exhibition | 9 -17 november 2012



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This PDF Booklet is published on the occasion of
Qiju Qilin Solo Exhibition at Sin Sin Fine Art,
9 - 17 November 2012.

Cover Image:
Detail from Monastery Valley | 松選贊林寺小巷,
Oil on Canvas, 40.5 x 30.2 cm, 2008 ©Qiju Qilin

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Detail from Canyon in Autumn | 峡谷秋色, Oil on Canvas, 80 x 60 cm, 2012

Introducing: Qiju Qilin

Sin Sin Fine Art is pleased to bring paintings by a Tibetan artist, Qiju Qilin to Hong Kong. Qiju Qilin crossed paths with Sin Sin Fine Art by way of Wong How Man, the Founder and President of the Hong Kong based China Exploration and Research Society (CERS). Wong How Man met Qiju back in 1981 when he was a journalist for the National Geographic covering China and they became best friends ever since. As an art lover who had the fortunate insight to purchase works by Zhang Xiaogang and Zheng Fanzi before they both became the iconic figures of contemporary art scene in China as they are known today, Wong How Wan discerned something of a rare quality in Qiju as an artist who follows his soul with his paint brush.

Qiju paints to revisit his most memorable experience and places, reliving them once again as he paints them. As a Tibetan, Qiju loves the Tibetan Plateau of his motherland where he was raised. He has even deeper affection for his hometown – Shangri-La. All this is reflected in his paintings through each of his brush strokes which carry with them a genuine warmth and deep feelings of human ties with one another and with the nature they inhabit.

Qiju Qilin, also known as Ni Zhigao, hails from Shangri-La County of Deqen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan Province. He was born to family of serf in Dongwang Canyon in 1950. As one of the brightest students in the first Hanyu class set up in Dongwang, he was offered a place in a teacher training course when he was only 13 years old. Subsequently, when he graduated, he worked as a teacher in the schools he helped set up in his hometown until the Cultural Revolution broke out in China.

While he has always loved to draw since he was a young student, his path to become a professional artist was paved during the Cultural Revolution when image of Chairman Mao and “Quotations from Chairman Mao” were drawn on walls everywhere across the nation. Since Qiju was the only person who knew Hanyu, he braved himself to take up the obligations to paint Chairman Mao. Over time he developed a foundation and interest in the art of painting which he continued to pursue through his study at China’s Art pantheon, the China Institute of Art in Hangzhou.

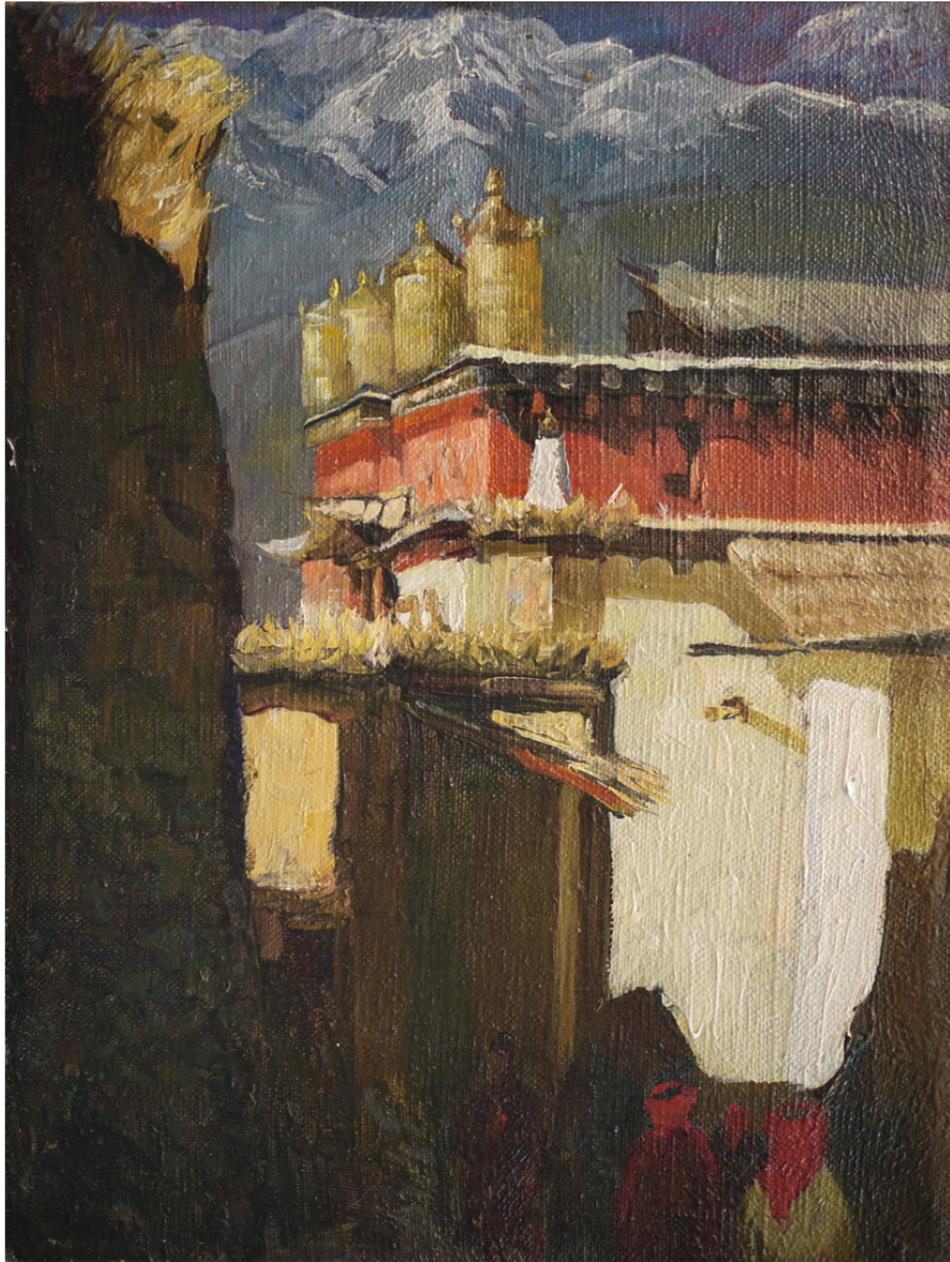
However, Qiju had to put his artistic career aside to become a cadre of the cultural bureau of a then-little-known enclave called Diqing, now home to the tourist mecca of Shangri-la in Yunnan. It was a hard time when most people didn't have the right to choose their own profession. This did not stop Qiju from working on his paintings whenever he could afford to, which he then give to friends as gifts - a generous soul as he is.

Since 2000, Qiju became an integral member of the China Exploration & Research Society (CERS) that Wong How Man founded over 25 years ago. As the Society's Tibetan Director, he put his heart and mind to helping this organization preserving the cultural heritage of China. In doing so, he executed many important projects of CERS, and was featured on many international as well as national media, including recently by CCTV. Today he remains the Tibetan Director of the CERS Zhongdian Center in Yunnan.

With encouragement from Wong How Man, Qiju now devotes his time to doing what he loves best, as an artist once again. It is Sin Sin Fine Art and Wong How Man's shared hope that Qiju can finally share his beloved paintings with other art lovers in the world.



Tibetan Village | 藏族村頭
Oil on Canvas
41 x 60 cm
2005



Monastery Alley | 松選贊林寺小巷
Oil on Canvas
40.5 x 30.2 cm
2008



Old Kitchen | 老廚房
Oil on Canvas
60 x 50 cm
2011



Towards The Source | 走向源頭
Oil on Canvas
50 x 60 cm
2011



En Route | 途中
Oil on Canvas
60 x 50 cm
2011



Oxen in Tent | 牛帮帐篷
Oil on Canvas
41 x 60 cm
2012



Mother and Daughter | 母女
Oil on Canvas
50 x 60 cm
2011



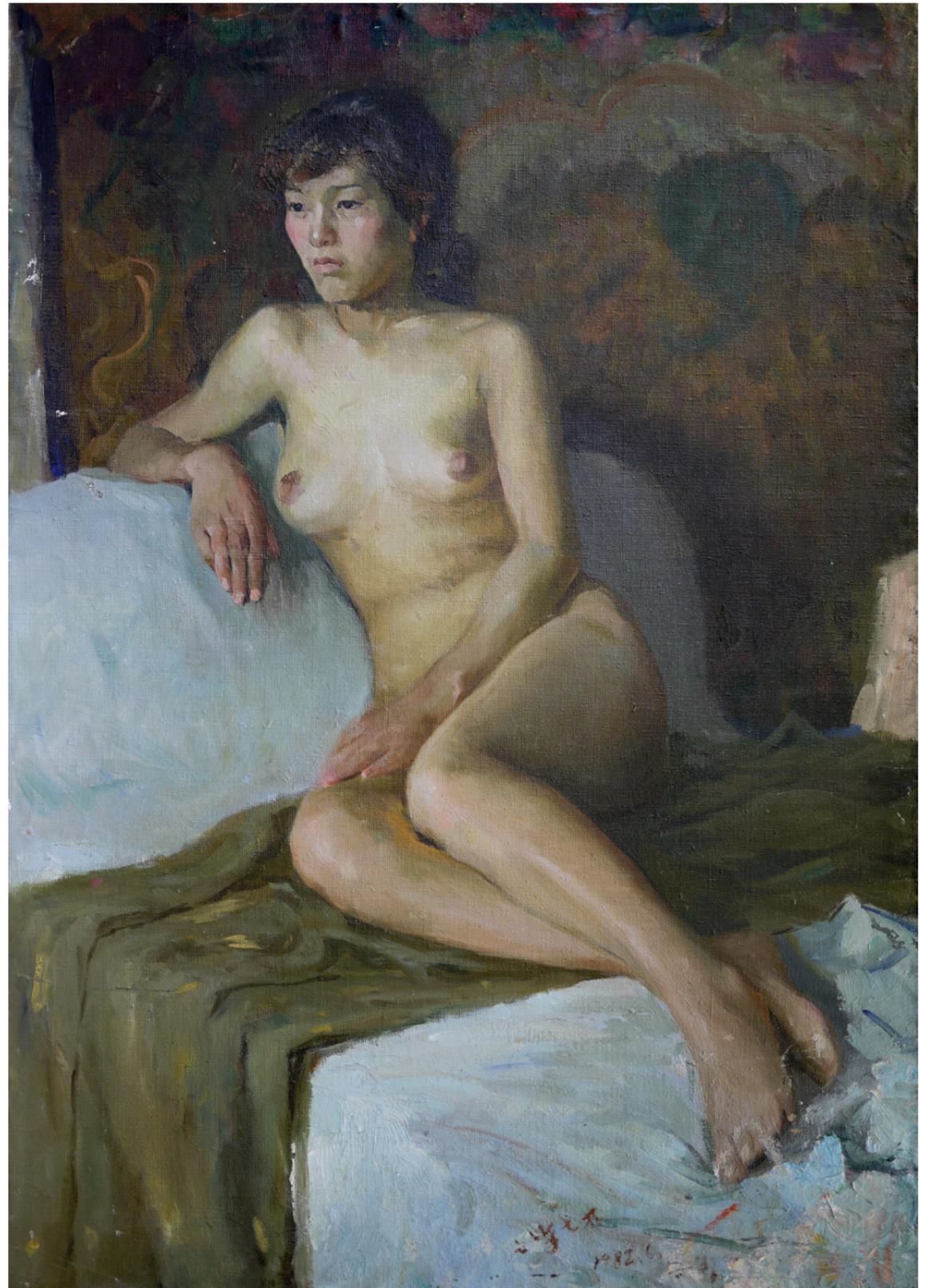
Canyon in Autumn | 峡谷秋色
Oil on Canvas
80 x 60 cm
2012



Bazaar | 集市上
Oil on Canvas
100 x 100 cm
2012



Spring Bath | 春浴
Oil on Canvas
121 x 80 cm
2012



Assignment | 習作
Oil on Canvas
114 x 81 cm
1982



Serene | 息
Oil on Canvas
50 x 60 cm
2010



Washing | 洗
Oil on Canvas
149 x 86 cm
1984



By The Lake | 無底湖
Oil on Canvas
80 x 100 cm
2012



After Harvest | 秋收之後
Oil on Canvas
60 x 80 cm
2012

QIJU QILIN : BIOGRAPHY

Qiju Qilin (Tibetan), also known as Ni Zhigao, is from Shangri-La County of Deqen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan Province. He was born to family of serf in Dongwang Canyon in 1950. He got a new family name as Ni Saida when his Tibetan region went through land reform in 1957. In 1959, Dongwang started to set up schools and he was fortunate to get enrolled as the first batch of students in Hanyu class. After completing the sixth grade when he was only 13 years old, he was offered a place in a teacher training course. Three months later Qiju was asked to return to his hometown to help set up three primary schools where he started his teaching tour.

Even when he was a student, Qiju liked drawing pictures in his exercise books and textbooks, which were always full of patches of his drawings. After he became a teacher, the Cultural Revolution in China took place. Across the whole nation, image of Chairman Mao and "Quotations from Chairman Mao" were drawn on walls everywhere. Since Qiju was the only person who knew Hanyu, he braved himself to take up the obligations to paint Chairman Mao. Over time he developed a foundation and interest in the art of painting.

When Yunnan Province restored university admission in February 1971, the Fine Arts Department of Kunming Normal University targeted at recruiting two students in Dongwang. The young Tibetan was naturally on top of the list and got enrolled in the University. Since then he developed a craze for painting. With the patient and meticulous guidance of the teachers and his own tireless efforts, he graduated from the University with flying colours. He then went back to his hometown and worked in a cultural center.

A veteran artist, Qiju participated in the Province Art Exhibitions of Yunnan and got outstanding award three times. In 1977, he joined the Beijing Exhibition of the Minority Arts and Crafts with participants from four southwest provinces. In 1978, he was invited to join the Artists' Association of Yunnan Province as a member. In 1981, the Association sent him to The Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts (formerly Central Academy of Fine Arts, East Branch) for further study and he was under the tutelage of Professor Cai Liang. After graduation in 1982, he returned to his hometown and engaged in arts guidance and creation works in the cultural center.

During the period he was working in the cultural centre, he was elected as a member of the council of the Artists' Association of Yunnan Province and the Vice-Chairman of the Deqen Tibetan Autonomous Federation of writers and artists in the second session of Deqen Federation of writers and artists. Later he was appointed as the Deputy Secretary of Cultural Affairs Bureau in charge of mass culture and literary heritage.

Given the busy schedule of cultural administration work, Qiju did not have any more time for arts creation works. Thanks to the encouragement of Mr. Wong How Man, the founder of China Exploration and Research Society, Qiju recently picks up his paint brushes and rekindles his enthusiasm of twenty years ago.



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