1985-11-04

Chinese Artist Adds Western Touch to Paintings--Exhibit Opens Nov. 13

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Chinese artist Grace Chow's exhibit of watercolors, which opens Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the University of San Diego's Founders Gallery, is being billed as the first of its kind in the Southwest.

"Tales from My Homeland" is the title of the unusual exhibit, which focuses on the daily lives of Chinese peasants in the 1940s and 50s.

"Chow embraces Western painting techniques to show us a series of watercolors inspired by Chinese novels about the peasants," said Therese Whitcomb, an art professor who is Founders Gallery director. "Chow was so moved by what she read, she changed from the traditional Eastern technique to Western."

Her technique, and subject matter, is quite a departure from traditional Chinese paintings that rarely depict the kind of pain and anguish found in "Tales from My Homeland."

For example, one of Chow's paintings, entitled "Exorcism," shows a peasant girl being boiled alive.

Chow says her paintings are "a tribute to their (peasants) courage."

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The Founders Gallery exhibit opens at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 with a two-hour wine and cheese reception. The show will run through Dec. 17. Gallery hours are from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays.

For more information, please contact Professor Whitcomb at 260-4261.

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