

Paying tribute to the genius of painter Lu Yanshao

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Painter Lu Yanshao is what Chinese landscape master Lu Yanshao wrote for his own epitaph before passing away in 1993. It was typical of the man known for his austerity and low profile.

But among a multitude of successful Chinese contemporary artists, Lu's name can never be overlooked.

A series of memorial activities marking the 100th anniversary of Lu's birthday kicked off late last month in Jiading District, the master's hometown. The activities were aimed at spreading and expanding traditional culture as well as encouraging Chinese civilization.

Institutions involved include the Zhejiang Federation of Literary and Art Circles, the Zhejiang Academy of Painting, the China Art Institution and the Lu Yanshao Art Academy.

Commemorations will include exhibitions in Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou, Nanjing and Shenzhen, a ceremony to launch the publication of "The Collection of Lu Yanshao" in Beijing and Shanghai, and academic discussions about the master.

The memorial activities will run through to the middle of next year.

While Lu is known as a master painter, he is also famous for his calligraphy, articles and poetry.

His calligraphy was influenced by Jin (265-420 AD) and Tang (618-907 AD) dynasty masters, while articles by masters from the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD) and Wei Kingdom (220-265 AD) also had a great influence on his work.

On the afternoon of June 26, an exhibition of Lu's calligraphy works opened at the Lu Yanshao Art Academy while a bronze statue was also unveiled.

The 80 pieces on display showed the irresistible charm of Lu's calligraphy. "He was born for art and that's why he was able to create his own unique painting school."

Following the ceremony, two publications were also released — a collection of Lu's works and another of postscripts written by Lu.

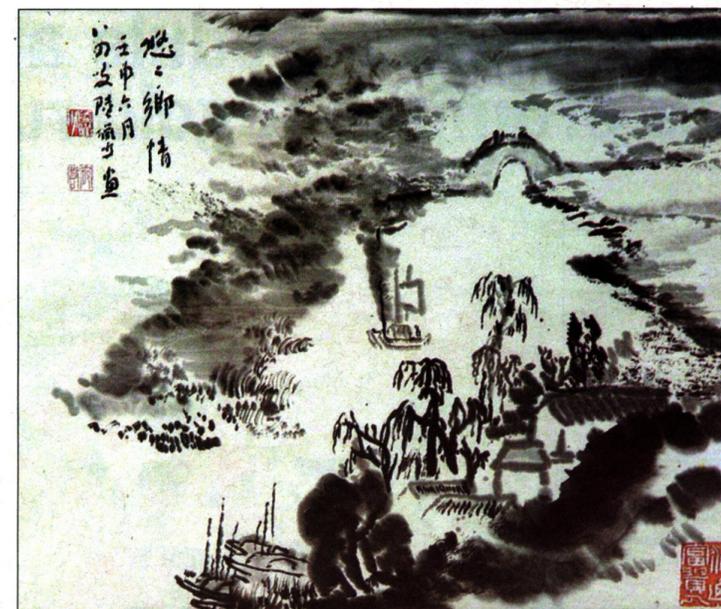
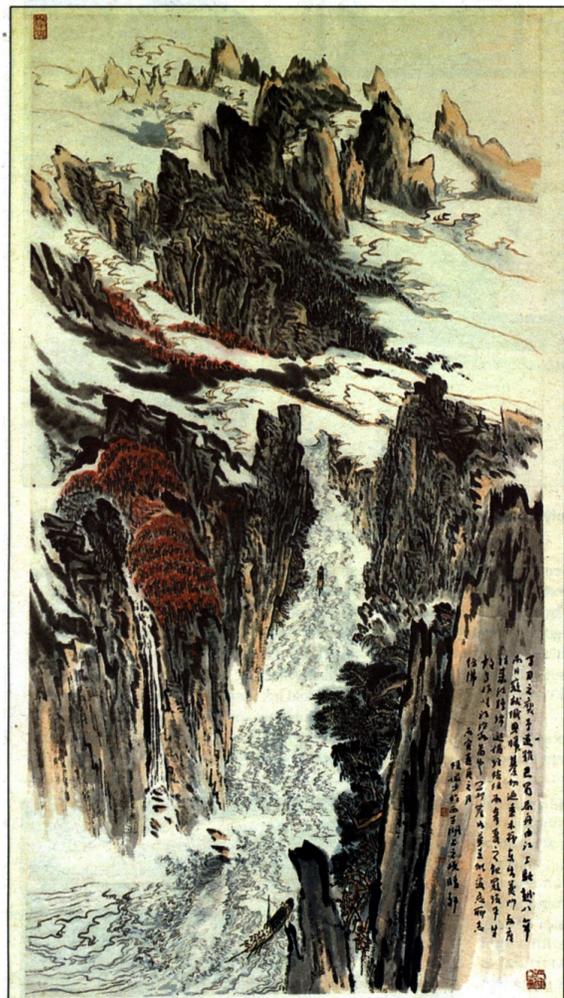
Also on June 26, an exhibition of Lu's paintings was held at the Shanghai Art Museum featuring 208 masterpieces.

The works represented various periods of Lu's career and marked his devotion to art and his outstanding achievements.

As well as being a famous contemporary painter, Lu was also renowned as an educationist. He was the painter of Shanghai Academy of Chinese Painting, the dean of Zhejiang Academy of Painting, a professor of Zhejiang Art Institution and a director of the Chinese Artists' Association.

Lu became fond of art at an early age and was apprenticed to famous painter Feng Chaoran. He later became completely devoted to art and created his unique style of landscape painting.

"Lu lived a life of simplicity but he pursued perfection in art. Such spirit is the most valuable treasure he left



Lu Yanshao excelled at landscape painting by introducing techniques he invented himself. Below: Lu Yanshao and his wife Zhu Yanyin.

Lu Yanshao lived a life of simplicity but he pursued perfection in art. Such spirit is the most valuable treasure he left to his children. He was born for art and that's why he was able to create his own unique painting school.

