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| Chan, Luis (1905-1995) |
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| Luis Chan was a doyen in Hong Kong art whose artistic career not only witnessed but also paved the way for the development of 20th Century Hong Kong art. Chan is well known in adopting different painting styles, and his curiosity in trying new things ultimately led him to establish his unique artistic style that marked the modernity of Hong Kong art. During 1920s until the 1950s, when Chan merely worked as a “Sunday painter”, he followed closely a conventional Western painting style; in particular the practice of outdoor sketching in watercolour influenced by contemporary British and American watercolourists such as Frank Brangwyn, J. M. W. Turner and John Sargent whom he admired. Executed in sketchy and bold brushwork, Chan was renowned for his quick sketching technique in watercolour landscapes, and it was this working manner and the huge quantities of works he produced that earned him the name of “Watercolour King” amongst artists in Hong Kong in 1950s. Since 1960s, Chan attempted develop a modern style of painting by borrowing from Cubism, Constructivism, Abstract Expressionism, Surrealism, and finally ended up developing an imaginative, fanciful and childlike style of his own. |
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| Further reading:  (Chang)  (Chen, Luis Chen: Fifty Years of Artistic Career)  (Chen, The World of Luis Chan)  (Hong Kong Museum of Art)  (Lee) |