

食飽飯未呀？

EATEN YOUR FILL OF RICE?

CHEE WANG NG

吳子雲

@ PLYMOUTH GALLERY, DES MOINES

Eaten Your Fill of Rice? is published in conjunction with two exhibitions of the same name at Capital Square, Des Moines, IA and at Plymouth Gallery, Des Moines, IA.

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AMBASSADOR KENNETH M. QUINN
PRESIDENT, THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION



FOREWORD

Rice is Life: Originating in Asia over 15,000 years ago, rice is at the heart of human civilization. It supports industry, inspires culture and feeds the population in every part of the world. More people eat rice than any other grain, and the reliance of the human family on rice will grow dramatically in future generations. In recognition of the central role of rice of ensuring global food security, the United Nations has declared 2004 the International Year of Rice.

Rice is also art: As is demonstrated by the accomplishments of Chee Wang Ng, who over the past several years has produced a visually stunning array of photographic art depicting the place of rice in Asian culture.

Now, with the generosity and invaluable leadership of Mr. Arthur V. Neis, Ng's work is being extended to Africa as part of the 2004 World Food Prize Harvest Festival.

The centerpiece of this month long exhibit in the Capital Square atrium in Des Moines, is a newly commissioned work entitled "A Bountiful Harvest." Created specifically for the 2004 World Food Prize Celebration, Ng's newest work depicts the global reach of rice "From Asia to Africa" and the confluence of agriculture and art. As such, it is a fitting tribute to the co-recipients of the 2004 World Food Prize, Professor Yuan Longping of China and Dr. Monty Jones of Sierra Leone.

Professor Yuan's breakthrough scientific achievement led to the world's first successful and wildly grown hybrid rice varieties, revolutionizing rice cultivation in China and tripling

production over a generation. Dr. Jones led a pioneering effort which developed New Rice for Africa (NERICA), which recaptured the genetic potential of ancient African rices by combining them with high yielding Asian rice species.

As US Ambassador in Cambodia, I witnessed first hand the singular place rice in the culture and livelihood of people throughout Asia. Now as President of The World Food Prize Foundation it is my pleasure to be able to join Ng's magnificent artistic accomplishment with the presentation of our \$250,000 World Food Prize, the world's foremost award recognizing breakthrough achievements in increasing the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world, which has come to be known as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture."

It was my honor and privilege to be present with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, Executive Director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Dr. Jacques Diouf, World Food Prize founder and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and Mr. and Mrs. John Ruan III at the US State Department on March 29th, 2004 when we announced that Ng's exhibit, "Eaten Your Fill of Rice," would be the central artistic element of our World Food Prize Award Ceremony.

It is now my equal honor and privilege to introduce this marvelous catalog which will enable the thousands and thousands who view Ng's art as part in the World Food Prize Harvest Festival to have a vivid reminder of the power of artistic expression in the global battle to end hunger.

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE IS PRESENTED EACH OCTOBER IN THE IOWA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING ON OR AROUND UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD DAY (OCTOBER 16TH). THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE WAS FOUNDED BY NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE AND IOWA NATIVE DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG AND IS ENDOWED BY DES MOINES BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST JOHN RUAN. THE PRIZE RECOGNIZES CONTRIBUTIONS IN ANY FIELD INVOLVED IN THE WORLD FOOD SUPPLY—FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MANUFACTURING, MARKETING, NUTRITION, ECONOMICS, POVERTY ALLEVIATION, POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. SINCE 1986, THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO LAUREATES FROM BANGLADESH, CHINA, CUBA, DENMARK, INDIA, MEXICO, SWITZERLAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nothing is possible without the constant support and encouragement of dear friends and family near and far. Thank you!

I would like to also express my appreciation to Arthur V. Neis not only in his generous support but his believe in this catalogue and exhibitions. Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn and David Ruhe for their foreword. Lilly Wei, Kóan Jeff Baysa, Victor L. Davson, Judy Collischan, and most of all—Jonathan Goodman for your insightful thoughts & kind words.

Joy Corning, Jayson White, Marcia J. Grant, William M. Brentano, Frank E. Brentano, Joan Hinners, Rick Miller, Sharon Parker-Lenihan and the Plymouth Gallery Committee for your warm hospitality and great assistance in Des Moines, Iowa.

My gratitude to David Chan, Josiah Leung, Peter Wong, John Shum, and Eddie Kong for your years of continued professional support and friendship.

My family in particularly my brother, Ng Chee Theam & my sister, Ng Chow Yin for their understanding and patience.

Thank you Robert Lee & Eleanor Yung for your untiring leadership and guidance.

This catalogue is dedicated in loving memory to my parents, Ng Fatt Poon and Chong Ah Fong.

EATEN YOUR FILL OF RICE?

Chee Wang Ng's signature bowls of rice, whether presented in glossy, richly colored photography reminiscent of Dutch still lifes with a Chinese flavor or as an installation of real bowls he has collected over the years, are food for thought—and ravishing food for the eye.

Lilly Wei

Independent Curator/Critic

With a wide embrace, including eggshell porcelain from China and low-fire ware from Morocco, this exhibition is a fun, informative, indexical romp through the fascinating world of rice bowls.

Kóan Jeff Baysa

Curatorial Consultant

Chee Wang Ng constructs images that are metaphors in an overarching discourse on identity, culture and modern experience. He uses light and form to transform space into narratives of complex dualities: physically and spirituality, presence and absence, familiarity and foreignness.

Victor L. Davson

Executive Director

Aljira, a Center for Content

In an intelligent and discerning manner, Chee Wang Ng transcends literal time and place with his melding of traditional Chinese culture and avant-garde, modernist aesthetics. Ancient subjects and objects are presented via contemporaneous formats characterized by formal restraint serving to enhance richly sensuous visual as well as delectable tactile appeals.

Judy Collischan, Ph.D.

Private Art Consultant