

## **WILLIE WONG**

Born in Malaysian Borneo, land of the head hunters, in 1959, this vanishing tropical island of exotic flowers and birds influenced Willie Wong to study art in various locations throughout South East Asia under various renowned Chinese artists.

After completing the Senior Cambridge examinations, Willie settled in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 1979. There he studied at both the Alberta College and the University of Alberta.

Embracing Edmonton's cultural liveliness, Willie participated off and on at the Works and The Fringe festivals, as well as having served on the Board of Directors for The Art Park. Willie also served as art critic and juror throughout the city for various art groups, and as a watercolor instructor for the Edmonton Public School Board in its Continuing Education programs. Willie teaches 4 different seniors centers in the city to improve the lives of seniors for the last 20 years. Willie continues working as an artist in residence for schools and conducting workshops at the teachers' conventions.

Also, he has been teaching at Edmonton's Devonian Gardens since 1987 and numerous other workshops for various art clubs throughout Alberta every year. Willie teaches ELLA at The U of A and also works as an artist in residence for both the public and catholic schools. The rest of the time, Willie teaches out of Kamena Gallery and helps his two brothers with the framing business.

Willie Wong traveled to Yellowknife and Inuvik to conduct workshops for the Great Northern Arts & Crafts Festival in July between 1990 and 1995 where his 'Northern Lights' art shows held in Inuvik were some of the most popular events enjoyed by international tourists.

Collected publicly as well as privately all across Canada, the United States, Malaysia and Singapore, some collectors of Willie's work include Amoco, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Canada Council for the Art Bank, Northwestern Utilities, Lois Hole Hospital the Royal Bank, Telus, the University of Alberta Hospital and etc.

Artist statement:

"I believe a paint brush is like a musical instrument to a musician; I paint whatever my mood inspires me. But my love is to study and paint the memorable human conditions all over the world."

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