

PASSAGES:

SCULPTURE BY LIU SHIMING

Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Queens College
(CUNY)

PASSAGES: Sculpture by Liu Shiming celebrates the art of noted sculptor, Liu Shiming (1926-2010), in a retrospective of works covering six decades of artistic inquiry. Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College (CUNY), is proud to present the first exhibition in the borough of this work. In a career running from 1950 - 2008, *PASSAGES* brings to light one of China's first generation of truly modern sculptors, schooled in both ancient and traditional Chinese art and restoration techniques, and at the same time, influenced by Western sculptors such as Auguste Rodin. Liu's work successfully married these disparate worlds. The exhibition will run from July 6 - August 18, 2022. A public reception at Godwin-Ternbach Museum is planned for July 21 from 6 to 8pm.



Image: Liu Shiming "Someone Who Wants to Fly"

"Passages" in the title refers to the artist's life and art, inextricably linked throughout his oeuvre. In the exhibition, sixty-two sculptural works in ceramic, wood, and bronze, along with twelve drawings demonstrating the artist's visual practice, will be shown in the museum's intimate spaces. Humanity in all its unidealized nature is fodder for his modest, but masterful sculptures demonstrating daily life in China's cities and towns. For example, portrayals of boat people living on the rivers of China concerned him from a period of over fifty years from 1950 - 2004. The theme of relationships of families, parents, and children also fascinated Liu Shiming his entire life. In other works, unsentimental self-portraits coexist with representations of sinuous female models, their forms reduced to simplified shapes reminiscent of Matisse's reductive sculptural practice.

Liu Shiming was one of the first 20th century Chinese sculptors to emerge from the generation trained in traditional and folk techniques after the founding of the People's Republic. His particular contribution though, merged this history with modernist Western ideas about the human form, into a completely new genre. This unique perspective brings a freshness and a lively dialogue to what sculpture can be.

This presentation of *PASSAGES: Sculpture by Liu Shiming* at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum represents the first collaboration with Macaulay Honors College (CUNY), Liu Shiming Art Foundation, theBlanc Art Space, and Liu Shiming Sculpture Museum. Godwin-Ternbach Museum is honored to have this opportunity to introduce Liu Shiming's works to our community and beyond.

To visit, please email: gtmuseum@qc.cuny.edu.



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