



Beautiful messages

Profile of an Artist: Raymond Chow

Raymond Chow is a multidimensional talent. When I first met the artist, he was entertaining guests at the Silk Purse Art Gallery in West Vancouver, an art show and benefit concert. Not only did he command attention with his generously donated art works, but he also delighted the masses by performing an original piano score that filled the room with an inviting air. His prowess tickling the ivories immediately inspired me to contemplate his canvas creations and to ultimately wonder: who is this man?

When many kids were just discovering how to hold a pencil properly, Chow was planning a career built by hand. At age five, he decided to become a painter and a pianist, and his parents encouraged him in both fields. Sixty-one years later, his art hangs on the walls of dignitaries and celebrities, and his music (contemporary piano infused with the vibrancy of modern jazz) inspires awe and wonder in the ears of both young and old.

Chow first gained prominence in the 1960s with his whimsical portraits of fading Victorian homes across Canada and up the pacific coast. With age came a family and the subsequent addition of women and children to his work. A Vancouverite to the core, although primarily known and commissioned for his family and corporate portraiture, for the past seven years Chow has been painting our city's most prominent natural treasure—Stanley Park.

This fifteen-painting tribute to the park is a testament to the landmark's beauty and resiliency. It captures, with reverence, the challenge of restoration following the devastating windstorms of December 2006, which ravaged the space and damaged thousands of trees. However, like much of Chow's work, it highlights the innocence and romance of the park, too—elements that were damaged, but not lost, and never forgotten.

c.boudrea@vcn.bc.ca

His work has that power. An angelic woman celebrates the beauty within the dilapidation by draping brilliantly coloured ribbons around the base of a tree while her feline friend catches a nap in the foreground (top right). An alluring lady strolls along Spanish Banks in a sundress and floral-adorned bonnet whilst selecting from nature those elements which appear to be the makings of a glorious arrangement in her basket as she goes (top left). Chow's art extols life, both youthful and mature, and juxtaposes these variances in a delicate yet vibrant way—beautiful paintings, beautiful messages.

—GLORIA LORENZ / GREG HUDSON

Raymond Chow 1-604 725 9959 Sat+Sunday



Photo courtesy of Sooter Studio

Born: Vancouver, B.C., 1941

Resides: Vancouver, B.C. now Nova Scotia

Education: Art Education—UBC
Royal Conservatory of Music—Toronto

Influences: Andrew Wyeth, A.J. Casson
(youngest member of the famed Group of Seven).

Media: Watercolours, acrylics, limited edition lithographs, giclée prints on canvas.

Preferred Style: Portraits and landscapes

Price: \$2,000 - \$10,000

Where He Hangs: Among other places, in the personal collections of Paul Anka, Gordon Lightfoot, and Roger Moore.

Website: www.RaymondChow.com

7 Church road Pleasantville Nova Scotia