



■ Yeung Chun-tong and Chloe Suen hope to promote Chinese arts and culture at the museum, right – showing artworks such as *Landscape*, top right, by Zhang Daqian.



■ From left: *Azaleas* by Wu Guanzhong; *Chinese Opera Performers* by Lin Fengmian; and *Water Village* by Li Keran.

Teaching tradition

Trista Yeung

The opening of a new museum is always good news for the Hong Kong art scene.

Established by the Simon Suen Foundation, Sun Museum is a nonprofit-making operation aimed at promoting Chinese arts and culture. It serves as a platform to facilitate understanding in the local community of Chinese traditions.

Executive director Yeung Chun-tong said: "We want to build a museum that belongs to the community, where everyone is welcome to come and discuss art."

The former assistant curator of the University Museum and Art Gallery at Hong Kong University hopes that Sun Museum can build up a collection of Chinese paintings eventually. "They are public assets as everybody has the chance to study the value of Chinese painting."

On the fourth floor of the SML Tower on the Kwun Tong waterfront, the museum has an area of 12,500 square feet, including a 5,000 sq ft exhibition space and outdoor court of 4,100 sq ft. It may not be spacious, but the tranquillity adds a hint of artistry.

"We are confident that the museum can contribute to the Energising Kowloon East Development Project," said Chloe Suen, chairman of the Simon Suen Foundation.

The outdoor court has been designed by Yeung as an extended space for visitors to loosen up. He uses five elements – wood, fire, earth, metal and water – in

Chinese philosophy as the theme.

"I want to merge Chinese characteristics into every corner so that the visitor can soak up the ambience," he said.

The museum is now holding the *Dawn of a Sunny Century* exhibition, showcasing 40 Chinese paintings selected from Suen's Yitao Collection.

Created across the 20th century, the collection explores the artists' journey in search of truth and novelty, as well as the trends and changes of Chinese society.

While some of the works are making their first appearance in a public exhibition, the show also includes artworks of renowned Chinese masters such as Qi Baishi, Huang Binhong, Zhang Daqian, Lin Fengmian and Wu Guanzhong.

"Viewing the artwork is not enough – you have to discover the history behind them," Yeung said. "It is the only way to understand why the artist painted it that way. Culture and tradition can affect a painting in many ways. Symbols can be found everywhere in Chinese paintings – even tiny little things like rocks have their own meaning."

The museum will change its exhibitions frequently and hold regular lectures and guided tours. There is no admission fee but an appointment is needed.

Go to www.sunmuseum.org.hk for more information.

