

顧福生

KU Fu-Sheng

1934–2017

顧福生，1934 年出生於上海，為家中次子，父親是國民黨陸軍上將顧祝同將軍；1948 年隨父親舉家遷臺。自小喜愛文藝，年少時曾隨黃君璧學習水墨畫，後轉向朱德群習藝。1957 年加入「五月畫會」，1958 年畢業於臺灣師範大學藝術系，是臺灣現代美術的代表人物之一。1961 於臺北新聞大樓舉辦首次個展，同年赴法國巴黎習畫，1962 年底離開巴黎後長期定居美國。早年受現代文學啟發，作品瀰漫著現代主義和存在主義哲學；顧福生曾說：「假如每個人都必須選擇一種生活方式，畫畫就是我全部的生活，我的思想在裡面，我的情感在裡面，我的生活細節全都在裡面。」早期作品中拉長而變形的人體呈現孤獨與憂鬱氣息，晚年則盡情恣意追求個人身體和心靈意志的自由解放，畫面人物的肢體表現更趨飽滿充實，充滿對於生命的禮讚。

1965 年在紐約的第二次個展時，好友席德進曾說「顧福生找回了他自己！」畫面上的人多以藝術家自己為模特兒。而稍晚 1970 年所作的〈迷魅之園〉是芝加哥時期作品，作品中仍然可見包覆在苦悶中的無頭人體，但早期僵硬挺直的人體已從單一化為眾多分身，由平地飛起，與曼妙花草、蟲鳥和蝴蝶在無重力感、超現實夢境般的紫紅背景下飛揚與跳躍，顏色斑斕、多采多姿的畫面充滿了生命律動感及迷離氣息；這段在紐約與芝加哥時期的藝術風氣影響下，使用象徵手法的作品逐漸有了較高彩度及亮度的表現。畫面簽名「ku」藏於左下角的石頭中，左側中間蓋有紅色「顧福生印」。

1994 年波特蘭時期的〈何以奔逃〉饒負故事性與興味：友人偕孩童來訪作客，他因害羞少話，便陪伴孩童一起塗寫作畫，諸如粉紅豬、小鹿、青蛙等動物。爾後將其剪下，與廣告人形及靴子拼貼於畫有花豹、樹幹、仙人掌、雨鞋的畫布上，並灑上亮片。對照比例不一的遠山與白雲，舞台背景般的畫面充滿著純真幻想的童趣。畫中動物覷眼看著依舊無頭的人體在畫面上背向奔逃，好似質問作者「何以奔逃」。紐約時期之後到 1990 年代期間，主角在畫面上部分像運動員競技般的跑步跳躍，部分則不斷地奔走或逃跑，常出現人生「奔向何方」的母題。畫面右方使用紅色「顧」字印章與「Ku」簽名，是 90 年代的畫作簽名習慣。

顧福生於 2011 年繪作〈海濱〉時接近 80 歲，畫面仍展現對健美肉身與生命無窮動力的謳歌；畫面上以藍色大印和「Ku」簽名，與藍紫色系呼應統合成一整體；遠方雲朵、海面浪花佔了畫面三分之一，成雙成對的人物與海龜，或俯臥沙灘，或爬走於浪花間……，與其他同時期人體動勢較多的畫作相比，此作平和靜謐之感油然而生。2012 年顧福生受訪時曾表示，畫作一直以來都以人為主，而人與自然、環境都是息息相關的；且由於自己本身瘦弱，因此作品中所畫運動員般的人體都很矯健、青春，結合了力和美，以畫筆表現對於身體的自由解脫及美麗人生的夢幻追尋。（雷逸婷）

Born in 1934 in Shanghai, Ku Fu-Sheng was the second son of KMT army General Ku Zhutong, and in 1948, relocated to Taiwan with his father. As a child, he was fond of art and literature, and had studied ink painting with Huang Junbi and then with Chu Teh-Chun. In 1957, he joined the Fifth Moon Group, and in 1958, graduated from the Art Department of Taiwan Provincial Teachers' College. He is considered a representative artist in the history of Taiwanese modernism. His first solo exhibition was held in 1961 at the Taipei News Building, and that same year, he went to Paris to study painting. At the end of 1962, Ku left Paris and settled in the United States. In his early years, he was influenced by modern literature and filled his work with modernist ideas and existential philosophy. Ku said, "If everyone has to choose a lifestyle, mine is exactly what I am doing now, painting. My thoughts are there, my feelings are there, and every detail of my life is there." In his early paintings, Ku's elongated and distorted human figures create atmospheres of loneliness and depression, but later, in pursuing the liberation of his own body and spirit, he tended to paint more substantial figures that fully celebrate life.

In 1965 at the time of Ku's second solo exhibition in New York, his friend Hsi Te-Chin remarked, "Ku Fu-Sheng has found himself!" The artist had used himself as a model for many figures in these paintings, and later in 1970 during his Chicago period, he again used this strategy in *Enchanted Garden* for a figure whose head is obscured with a grey cloud. But here, the stiff and singular figures of his earlier paintings give way to a variety of figures placed among lithe and graceful flowers, plants, insects, birds, and butterflies, which all seem to be defying gravity as they jump and flit before a dreamlike and surreal purple background. This rich and colorful painting is teeming with life's rhythms and misty atmospheres. Influenced by his surroundings during his time in New York and Chicago, Ku began using symbolism and brighter colors. He signed *Enchanted Garden* with "ku," which is concealed on a stone in the lower left corner of the painting, and stamped the left side of the painting with the red mark "顧福生印" (Ku Fu-Sheng's seal).

His 1994 *Why are You Running?*, painted during his stay in Portland, Oregon, has an interesting backstory. Ku tended to be introverted, so once when friends were visiting with their child, he got to drawing animals, such as a pink pig, fawn, and frog, with the child. He then cut out the animals and collaged them with images of people and boots from advertisements on a canvas painted with leopards, tree trunks, cacti, and galoshes, all bathed in sunlight. This is contrasted with mountains and clouds in different proportions in the painting's distant background, and overall, the painting is filled with the kind of creative imagination that delights children. The animals are watching a headless human figure, a constant theme is Ku's work, running into the distance, with expressions that seem to ask, "Why are you running?" From his New York period to the 1990s, Ku constantly painted protagonists that are running and jumping like athletes on one hand, or escaping on the other, and the motif "why are you running?" had often appeared during this time. The right side of the painting is stamped with the artist's seal "顧" (the artist's surname) in red ink, and signed "Ku," which is how he customarily marked his paintings in the 1990s.

In 2011 when he was approaching 80 years old, Ku painted *By the Sea*, which still features muscular bodies and a celebration of the boundless power of life. A large seal imprint and the artist's signature, both in blue, appear on the painting and echo the blue and purple tones of the entire composition. The upper third of the painting is occupied by distant clouds, waves and sea spray, while the foreground features two couples; one human the other chelonian, the former lying on the beach, and the later crawling among the sea spray. Compared with other paintings of this period, in which figures seem more active, *By the Sea* has a natural feeling of tranquility. In a 2012 interview, Ku said that his paintings had always been based on the figure, and his figures have close relationships to nature or their environments. He also said that his own physical weakness had prompted him to paint athletic figures that are strong, youthful, and handsome, and he used painting to express his dreams of liberating the body and of a beautiful life. (Yi-Ting Lei)



迷魅之園 Enchanted Garden
1970
油彩、畫布 Oil on Canvas
177 x 126 cm
蒐購 Purchase 2019.0003.001



何以奔逃 Why Are You Running?
1994
油彩、紙、畫布 Oil and Paper on Canvas
96 x 121.5 cm
蒐購 Purchase 2019.0003.002



海濱 By the Sea
2011
油彩、畫布 Oil on Canvas
126.5 x 151.5 cm
蒐購 Purchase 2019.0003.003