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EXHIBITION

THE CLARITY AFTER

Nearly 50 ink paintings by Cultural Medallion recipient Chua Ek Kay are now at Lasalle College of the Arts, showcasing the second-generation painter's experimentation with the quintessentially Asian medium.

The works from an anonymous private collection are being displayed to the public for the first time, and visitors can trace the artist's lifelong search for a unique visual language.

From more straightforward homages to still lifes of orchids to his later iconic abstract lilies that resemble an exploded grid of vertical and horizontal signs, Chua's oeuvre still manages to retain contemporary freshness.

The exhibition cites his belated formal art education at Lasalle and visit to Australia – with its

heightened landscape and spiritual Aboriginal art – as inflection points in his practice.

Later, he uses Singapore's shophouses to substitute the mountains that more traditionally anchor Chinese scrolls. His ink washes are rendered dynamic

through variations in tone, and the single vanishing point of Western painting and the more vertical composition of Chinese art are brought together in harmonious conversation.

In a video, the late artist says he thought there was no point in

exhibiting Chinese art in Beijing and Shanghai. All his life, he had been driven by a desire to create something new, contemporary and different.

The limits of language are where art resides. "Good art doesn't require anyone to speak too much for it –

that is what I believe," he says.

WHERE Gallery 1, Lasalle College of

the Arts, 1 McNally Street

MRT Rochor

WHEN Till Dec 20, Mondays to

Saturdays, noon to 7pm

ADMISSION Free

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The Clarity After
at Lasalle
College of the
Arts. PHOTO:
LASALLE COLLEGE
OF THE ARTS