

Chinese Seals

T.C. Lai

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Introduction by Jiu-fong L. Chang

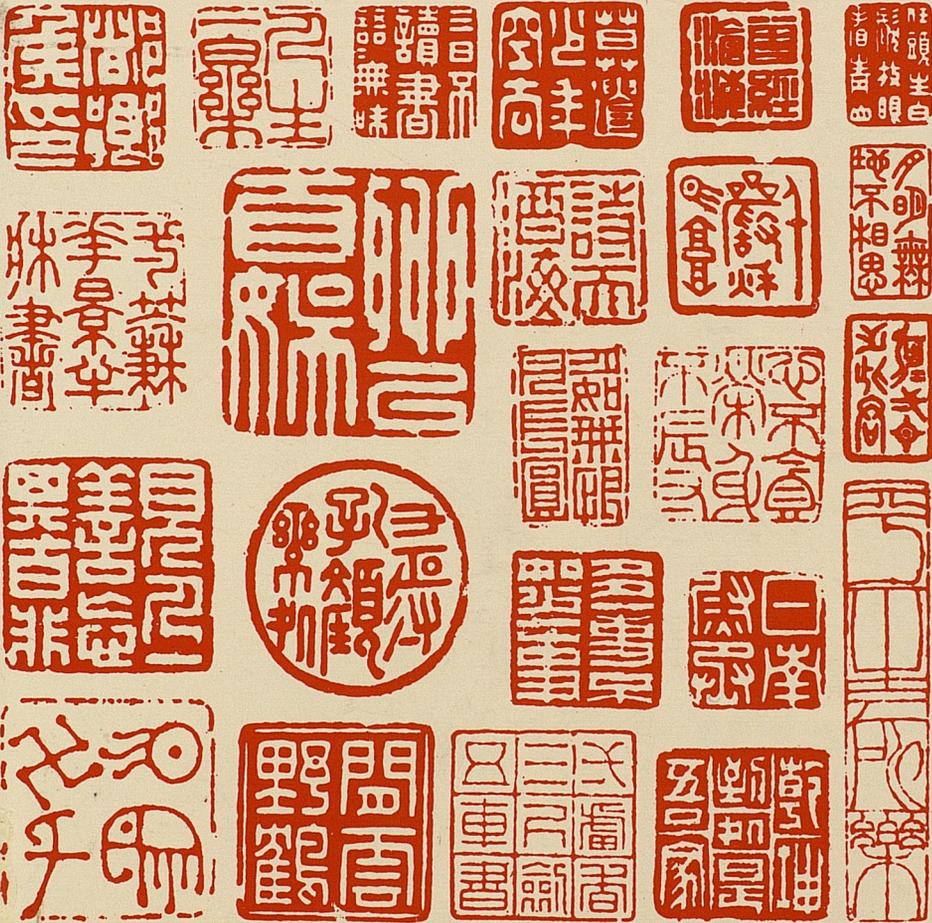


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T.C. Lai has written more than a dozen books on Chinese culture and things Chinese. Educated in Hongkong and London, he has had years of experience as diplomat, businessman, lecturer and educational administrator. A distinguished scholar in the field of Continuing Education, his present post is Director of Extra-mural Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

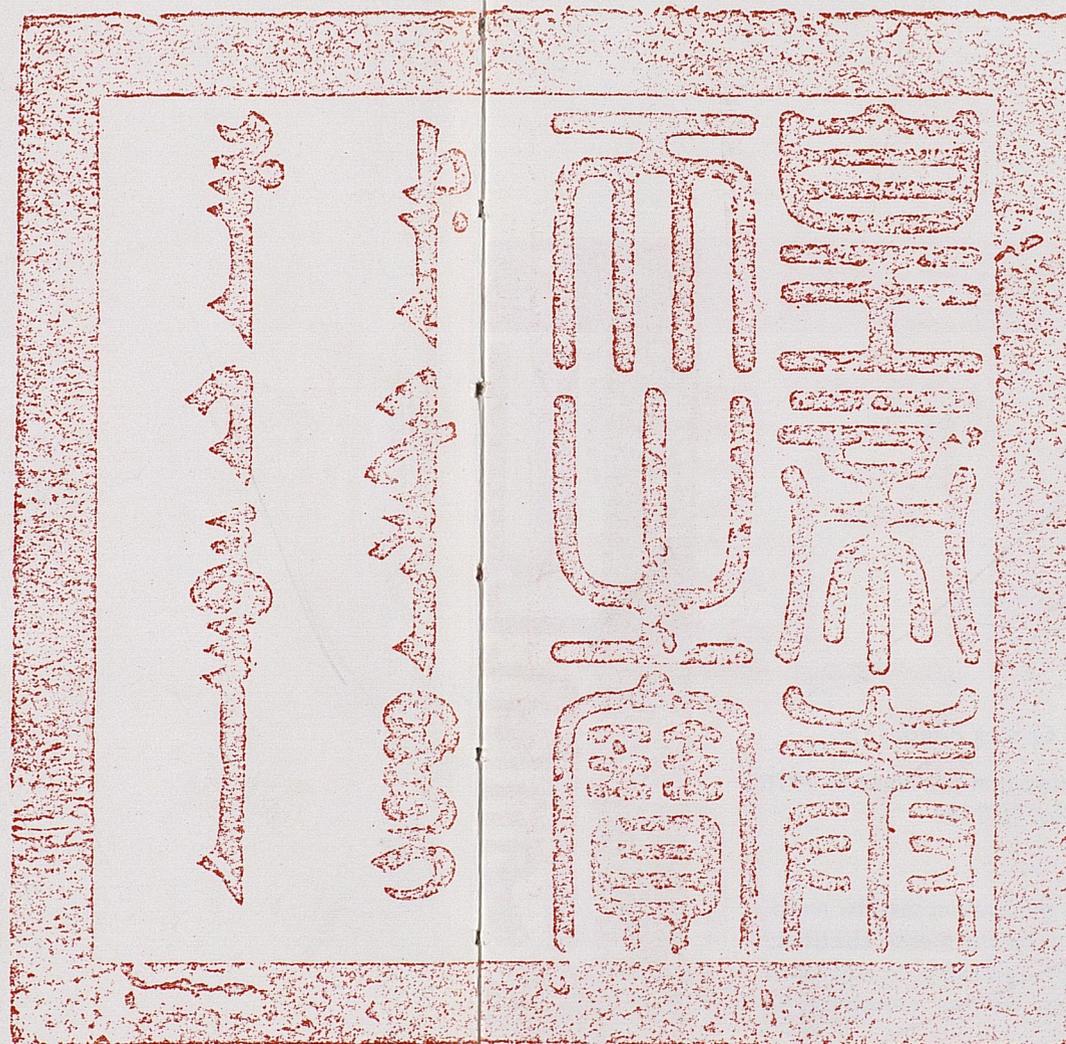
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the art
and
technique
of
SUMI-E

When Buddhist priests brought the ink stick and the bamboo-handled brush to Japan in the sixth century, the Japanese soon became adept in their use and for the past fourteen centuries have been contributing to their own heritage of ink painting. This ancient Oriental art of *sumi-e*, originating in China and having its spiritual basis in Zen Buddhism, represents a union of the arts of calligraphy and painting that produces ink monochromes of fascinating beauty. If calligraphy is writing, *sumi-e* is the painter's language of nature, with various techniques forming his vocabulary.

The artistic accomplishments of successive Japanese *sumi-e* artists are to be admired in books, reproductions, and museums, but the techniques themselves have been passed from generation to generation by means of personal instruction and apprenticeship. As a result, not enough information has been available to the inquisitive Western artist who is attracted to this art.

This book is designed to help remedy that deficiency. It is the valuable product of an association between the author and her teacher, Mr. Ukai Uchiyama, master calligraphist and artist, a contemporary inheritor of the long and honorable tradition of Japanese *sumi-e* artists. In it, the author shares with her readers the rich knowledge gained from this association, presenting not only a thorough discussion of the art and the artist but also a series of practical explanations based directly upon Mr. Uchiyama's instruction. These take the reader through many lessons actually given by the artist to illustrate the techniques that have been handed down from ancient days. They are accompanied by more than 50 illustrations, many of them in color, reproducing works by the artist himself.

Kay Morrissey Thompson studied at the Massachusetts School of Art in Boston and the Art Students' League in New York. Her professional experience includes six years with *Vogue* and *Glamour*, for the latter of which she served as Assistant Art Director; two years as Assistant Art Director of *Woman's Day*; two years as Art Director of Burdine's Department Store in Miami; and free-lance art work for *Good Housekeeping*, *McCall's* and the *New York Times Magazine*. In private life she is the wife of Cdr. W. K. Thompson, Jr. of the United States Coast Guard, and it was her husband's three-year assignment in Japan that provided her with the fortunate opportunity to study with Ukai Uchiyama and to produce this invaluable book on the actual techniques of Japanese ink-painting. Mrs. Thompson is also a member of Ikebana International, the world-wide Japanese flower-arrangement society which originated in Tokyo several years ago. Her impressive professional background is reflected in the beautiful layout of her book.