

YUN GEE

YUN GEE, Chinese-American artist, who has founded the School of Diamondism or Sur-Impressionism, is the personification of his own theory. As applied to painting, Diamondism is the ability to see things from all angles and is the expression of the fourth dimension, which is transparency.

By introducing this school of thought into his daily life, Yun Gee attempts, literally, to see things from all angles by being, not only an artist, but a philosopher, poet, inventor, mathematician-engineer and musician as well.

The basic principle behind all his thinking and work is the belief in the importance of the force of gravity. He claims that the earth will lose its gravity if people don't stop drawing oil out of the land. If ore is continually mined from the earth, he says, the skeleton of the world will collapse.

Combining his mathematic logistics with his philosophical beliefs, he is able to make an egg stand on end. This feat has been denied by Einstein, and was used as a challenge by Queen Isabella of Spain when Columbus asked her to finance his trip that ultimately brought him to America. But Christopher had to crush the bottom of the egg to fulfill his aims. Even the Chinese, who recognize that this trick can be done, claim that it can only be performed during the first hours of their Spring. Nevertheless, Yun Gee can do it any time or any place. To him, it's simple; when an egg is standing on its axis, the yoke forms the center of gravity. By doing this stunt he can get the proper feel toward a projective work of art. "It may seem odd to westerners," he says, "but sensitively dynamic force, a sense of accomplishment, intuition, determination -- all are combined in this practice." All machines of the modern age are constructed with on their axis point, which is based on the theory of gravity.

In the field of Invention, he has devised, among other things, a three or four-man chess board, which was the result of a dream he had one night. More attention-getting, however, is his conception of the Lunar Tube, which has been copyrighted. Through this contraption, airplanes could fly to and from the moon in 9 days, each way. The rate of travel would be 10,000 miles per hour. It would cost three hundred billion dollars to build and would take five years for a crew of a million workers, on the job day and night as well as Sundays. The tube is to be built from the point of gravity --- on to the moon. The workmen would be supported by balloons.

Yun Gee's philosophical mysticism, which is the backbone of his art, is the outgrowth of extensive study of all the great world philosophies, with emphasis on Confucianism and Taoism. From Confucius he has taken the belief that we should adopt the best elements of all schools of thought. This, according to Yun Gee, is closest to the Democratic Way of Life, which he believes is the only hope for world salvation. Then, by modifying the strict Taoistic worship, which stresses living-with-nature in hermit fashion, he feels that we should live with people but maintain our individuality. He has even devised a plan on "How to Live a Fuller and Longer Life" by renouncing our conventional, automatic, clock-like existence and replacing it by "Living with Gravity" (eat when you're hungry, sleep when you're tired, do things when the spirit moves you, etc.)

Mr. Gee's philosophic ruminations have taken him into the realm of prophesy. Proof of this may be seen in his 2 prophetic paintings done before Pearl Harbor -- namely "Tanaka Memorial" (Japanese Imperialistic Dream) and "War Dance", in which he depicted the wild plottings of Hirohito and Hitler for world domination. Frequently he solves his own personal problems by

communicating with "invisible people" on whose judgment he relies to prophesy the right course of action for him to take.

His poetry has been declared a symbol of the New World and the ideas expressed are compared to Esperanto, in that, figuratively, he speaks an international language -- understood by all.

As a musician, he has performed at the National Musical Benefit Association (1933), at the Brooklyn Museum and has given broadcasts for the War Department on the Chiang (one-string harp,) yang chim (the original piano played with bamboo hammers,) mandolin, chinese trombone, lute and flute. He has also studied the dance with members of the famous Duncan family and has given exhibitions of the Chinese Sword Dance with "internal and external gymnastics."

In his use of paint and brush, Mr. Gee combines the 6 Chinese techniques of the Han and Sung dynasties as well as the western art within the compass of his creations. His work may be divided into three distinct periods:

Lyrical, (modernism, inspired in France by the chinoiserie fad of some years previous), including such paintings as "Confucius," "Lao Tze," "Empress Yang Kwei-Fei at the Bath," "Charm of Music," "Poetess," "Resurrection," etc.;

Power Period, during which time he did the 2 prophetic paintings as well as the "Last Supper", commissioned for St. Peters Church, Bronx, New York; and Life Period, which began after his meeting Freud in Paris, and includes his newest work, "Right Route to Freedom,"

note) For summary of Yun Gee's life and art career, you may refer to the catalogue of his one-man show at China House, which will go from August 5th to Sept. 15, 1947.