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NEW EXHIBITION: Milton Quon: A Retrospective

(LOS ANGELES, March 1, 2005) - The Chinese American Museum is proud to present its next major art exhibit featuring the work of Chinese American artist Milton Quon, opening May 15, 2005. This retrospective exhibit will showcase the broad range of the artist’s practice from fine art to commercial work, much of which is on public display for the first time.

A quintessential Los Angeles artist, Quon was born in 1913 and raised in Los Angeles. After graduating from the Chouinard Institute of Art, Quon’s career in the commercial arts took him to Walt Disney Studios where he worked as a designer and painter. From the 1940s to the 60s, Quon worked as an art director at ad agency Batten, Barton, Durstine, and Osborn.

From whimsical cherubs in Disney’s Fantasia to bold advertising posters, Quon’s commercial work will be presented alongside the artist’s rich collection of fine art works. Quon’s plein-air watercolors chronicle everyday life against the backdrop of Los Angeles’ diverse scenery in a changing natural and urban landscape, from a pre-Dodger’s Stadium Chavez Ravine Grocery store and New Chinatown Gateway to the Santa Monica Beach Pier. With rich, intuitive colors and expressive lines, Quon captures in watercolor the vibrant energy of our sun-kissed beaches, the dreary structures of industrial refineries and the crowded train yards converging at the heart of Los Angeles. As a tireless artist, fishing enthusiast and avid traveler, Quon is always armed with a sketchbook, pens and watercolors, recording subjects of local interest as well as his travels across the country and abroad. Finally, the exhibit will also feature Quon’s imaginative personal Christmas cards which blend conventional Christmas imagery with traditional Chinese painting style and elements.

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