

Three Poems by Hsu Chi Cheng

Chrysanthemums

Who's the one over there

Slim and upright

Defying the cold

Never giving her way

Steadfast and chaste

Unworldly and unconventional

Who's the one over there

Who's the one over there

Standing against the mountain

By the huge rock

Where grow pine trees

Deigning the world

Towering at her place

Who's the one over there

Who's the one over there

Whom I worship

Whom I admire

Whom I often want to know

Whom I often want to see

But who is the one over there

Over there

Maple Leaves

For detesting the desolateness

And to dress the land more beautiful

Maple leaves keep painting themselves with lipsticks

To let chlorophyll vanish and draw a fire to burn themselves

Just like a candle burning itself

Maple leaves keep painting themselves

With their fire-like lives

To let desolateness vanish

This Lotus

This lotus, slim and graceful

Stands in this tiny oval of a pool

In this tiny oval of the space

Except that limpid water

Except those lotus leaves floating on the water

There's nothing more

In pink, and in an outstanding posture
She is budding and blooming on her twigs
Delicate and prominent, pure and unworldly
A bloom above the water
Slim and graceful, standing out of ripples
It receives the stroke of the bright sunshine

She is an elegant poem
Written in the color of life-pen
In this tiny oval of a pool
In this tiny oval of the space
Slim and graceful, displaying her immortal grace
Oh, lotus, oh, beautiful lotus

Bio:

Hsu Chi Cheng , a famous contemporary Chinese poet, writer and translator. Native of Pingtung County, Taiwan; born in 1939; LLB of Soochow University ;later finished his studies at the Educational Institute of Kaohsiung Normal University. He was once an editor, a journalist, a military judge, a teacher as well as part-time director, leading member or guiding teacher to some mass organization of art and literature. He served as a teacher for 33 years, at No. 5 Vocational School, Higher Vocational College and The state-Run Middle School in succession.

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