



CHINA
2000
FINE
ART



Qi Baishi (齊白石, 1864-1957)

Hibiscus 秋艷益香

1949

Ink and color on paper

Hanging scroll, 39.125 x 13.25 in. (99.3 x 33.6 cm)

Signed Baishi with one seal: Xiangshang

Laonong

Inscription

秋艷益香。八十九歲白石。

鈐印：湘上老農

Autumn beauty and fragrance. Eighty-nine years old, Baishi (signature)

Seal: Xiangshang Laonong

Qi Baishi (1864-1957), courtesy name Qi Huang (齊璜), was a dazzling Chinese painter, noted for the whimsical, often playful style of his works. Born to a peasant family from Xiangtan, Hunan, Qi became a carpenter at fourteen, and taught himself to paint. He did not start to learn traditional painting and calligraphy until he was twenty-seven. After he turned forty, he traveled to various scenic spots in China, and settled in Beijing in 1917.

Some of Qi's major influences include the early Qing dynasty painter Bada Shanren (Zhu Da) and the Ming dynasty artist Xu Wei. The wide variety of subjects he painted, such as animals, scenery, figures, toys, vegetables, seafood, and flowers, he drew from commonplace objects. He theorized that "paintings must be something between likeness and unlikeness."

He was also an excellent seal carver and called himself "the rich man of three hundred stone seals" (三百石印富翁). In 1953 he was elected president of the China Artists Association. Qi died in Beijing in 1957.



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