

TAN SEAH BOEY
CHEN CHENG MEI

陈成梅

(Singaporean, 1927-2020)



Chen Cheng Mei, also known as Tan Seah Boey, was a Singaporean artist known for her pioneering work as the woman behind the Ten Men Art Group. A loose collective of Singapore-based artists, the Ten Men Art Group made work based on their travels around Southeast Asia in the 1960s, and around China and India in the 1970s.

She initiated a trip with three artists to Peninsular Malaysia in 1960, which led to another journey the following year with ten participants, this time headed by artist Yeh Chi Wei after Chen proposed that he led the trip in her stead. Further excursions to Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Borneo, and other locations followed, which involved the group visiting key artists, as well as creating sketches and taking photographs of temples, villages, cities, and the country sides from these areas.

Chen's later practice of solo journeys would see her work engaging with Africa and South Asia in the decades following their decolonisation, depicting scenes from locations such as Nairobi, New Delhi, and the Sahara.



Khajulaho III

oil on canvas

1971

69 x 53.5 cm

70 x 55 cm (with frame)



Untitled

oil on canvas

1990

60 x 76 cm

94 x 109 cm (with frame)



Guitars

oil on canvas

1976

77 x 117 cm

79 x 119 cm (with frame)



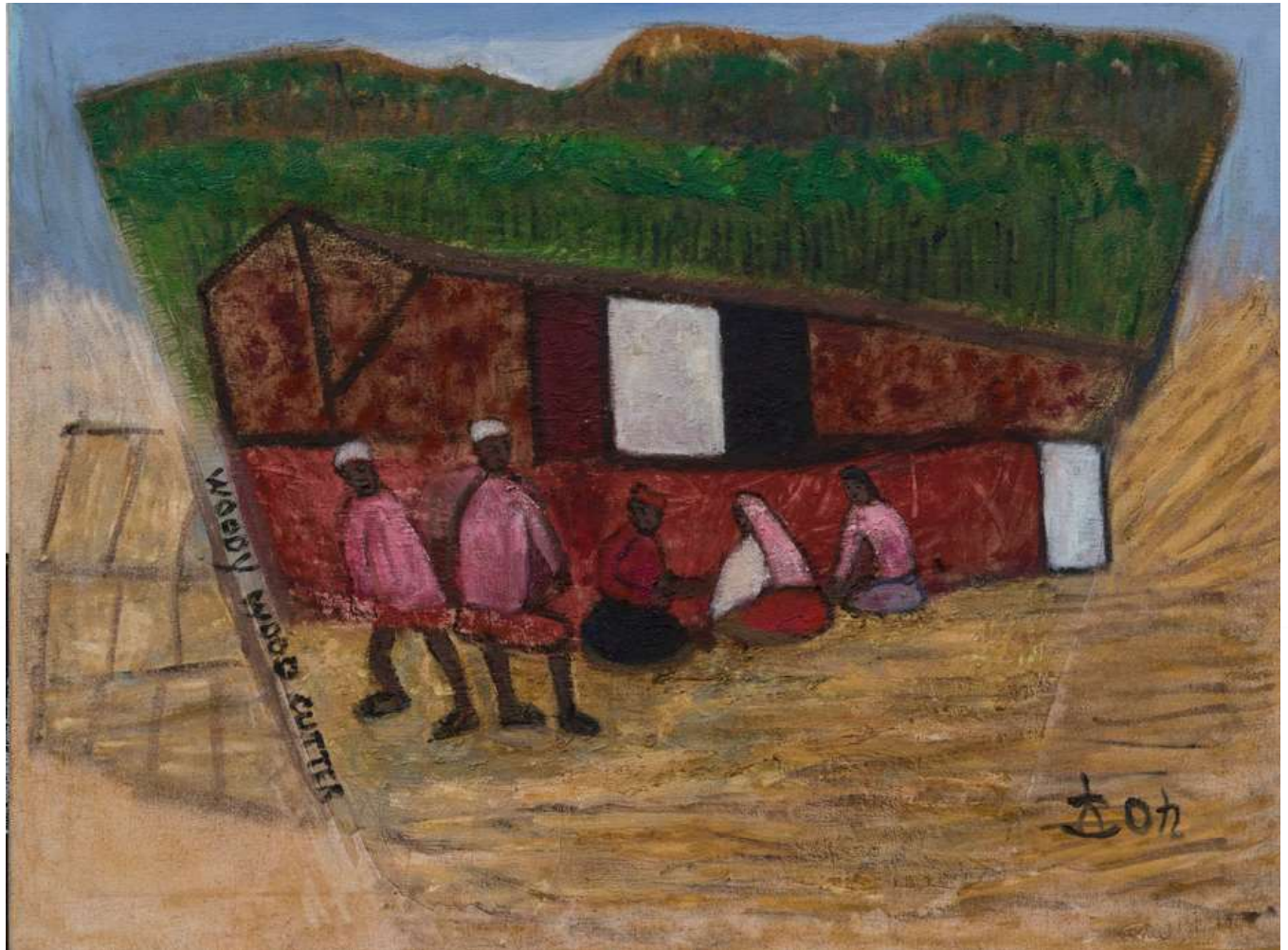
Water Gypsies, Philippines

oil on canvas

1976

76 x 117 cm

78 x 118.5 cm (with frame)



Woody Wood Cutter

mixed media on canvas

2009

68.5 x 92 cm



Untitled

oil on canvas

1978

56 x 72 cm

77 x 92 cm (with frame)



Fishing, Kerala

oil on canvas

1984

60 x 90 cm

97 x 126 cm (with frame)



Chinese Lady Doing Sculpture, China

oil on canvas

1970

60 x 96 cm

62 x 98 cm (with frame)



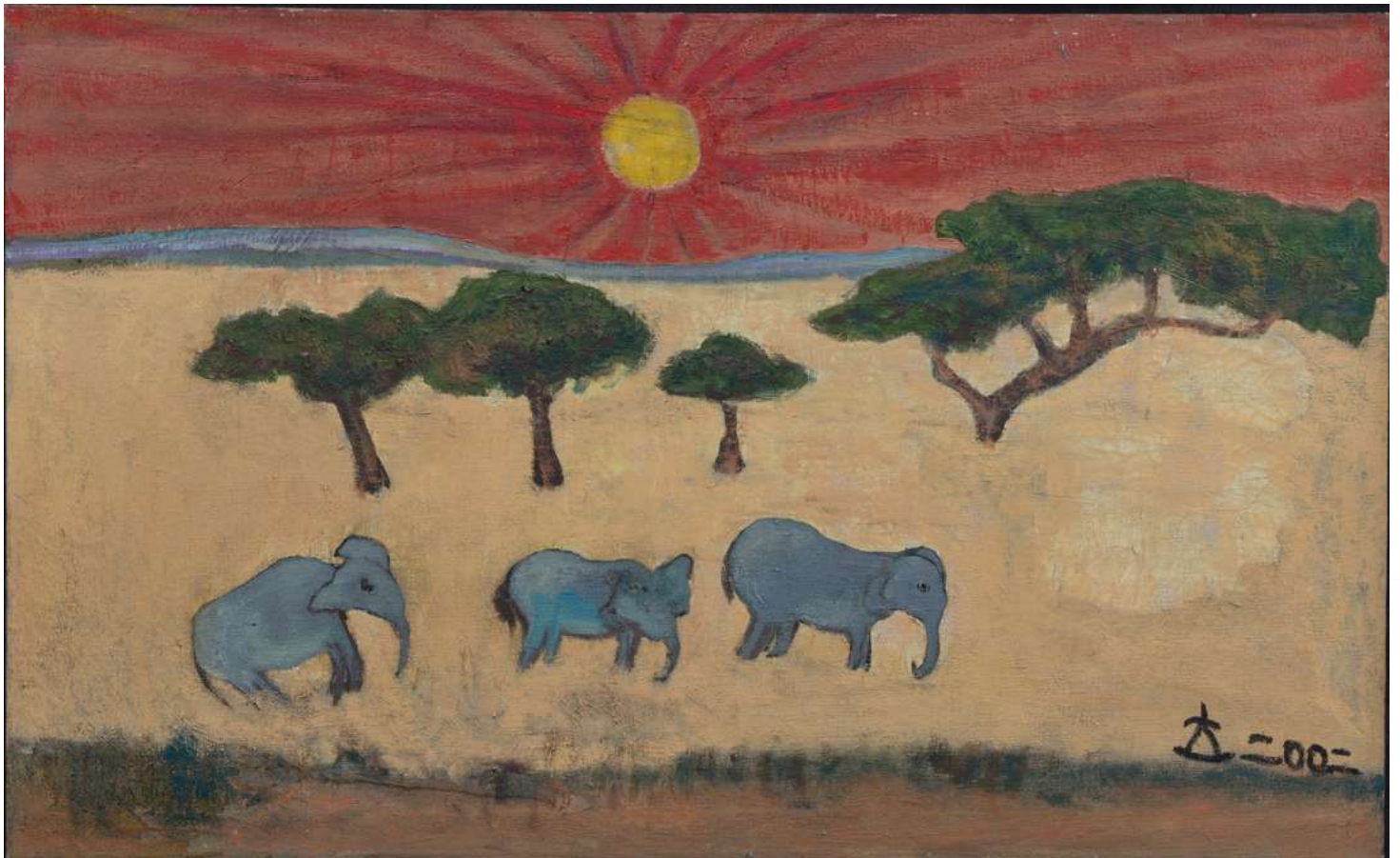
Papua New Guinea

oil on canvas

1986

62 x 80 cm

68.5 x 86 cm (with frame)



Untitled

oil on canvas

2002

59.5 x 96.5

96.5 x 133 cm (with frame)



Still Life

oil on canvas

2006

68 x 97 cm

99 x 126.5 cm (with frame)



Kashmir

oil on canvas

1962

65 x 80 cm

68 x 83 cm (with frame)



Yucatan II
oil on canvas
1984
59 x 82 cm
66 x 88 cm (with frame)