

Different strokes for different folks

By TOM MICHIBATA *Peel Bio.*
Staff *May 6/98 MN*

Mississauga couple Bernice and David Kwong are a study of contrasting personalities.

If you're looking for a jolt of vitality, visit with Bernice for a few minutes. She'll feed you her Chinese philosophies and a steady dose of smiles to warm the cockles of your heart.

Husband David is more methodical and deliberate, certainly less prone to his better half's emotional highs and lows.

The differences in their personalities are evident in their popular Chinese brush paintings that are on display as part of their ninth annual exhibition this weekend (May 9-10) at Springbank Art Centre.

The show runs both days from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., with the official opening set for Saturday at 11 a.m.

Chinese brush paintings are watercolor works done on rice paper. Bernice took it up in the mid-1960s under renowned art professor Lui-Sang Wong at the Eastwind Gallery in San Francisco.

David picked it up in the early 1970s, when the couple was living in Montreal. He studied with a group of artists called Art Group 80.

"My style is more splashy than

David's," said Bernice. "The brush is a mechanism for your feelings. When I'm happy and relaxed, I do my best work."

Bernice describes herself as a happy-go-lucky type, something that goes back to her days as free-spirited student at Concordia and McGill Universities in Montreal.

"I like to live it up. I like to do things like karaoke and dancing," Bernice said.

She sees beauty, tranquillity and order in nature. She has soft spots in her heart for flowers, birds and fishes.

"If I see something beautiful, I just let go," Bernice said. "It makes a difference when your inner thoughts are happy. Philosophically I'm a happy person."

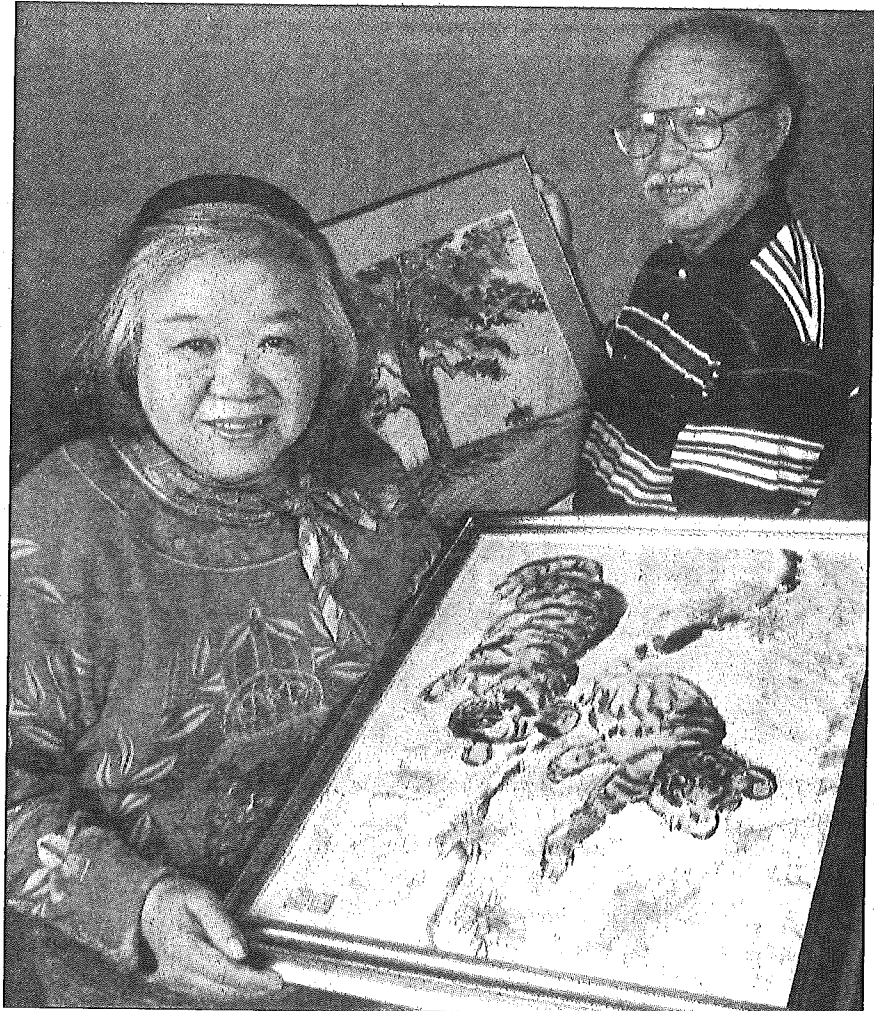
Bernice said the works of her husband, on the other hand, are more reserved and structured but possess an inner strength. His favorite subjects include buildings, trees and mountains.

"David's work is more detailed. He's particular about lines."

Regardless of their differences in temperament and style, paintings by either of the Kwongs are highly sought after.

They donate their work and proceeds from their sales to groups like the Living Arts Centre and the Mississauga and Credit Valley Hospital Foundations.

Admission is free. Springbank is located at 3057 Mississauga Rd. N. just north of Dundas St. W. Call 272-1072.



Staff photo by Rob Beintema
Bernice and David Kwong are holding their ninth annual exhibition of Chinese brush paintings this weekend at the Springbank Art Centre.