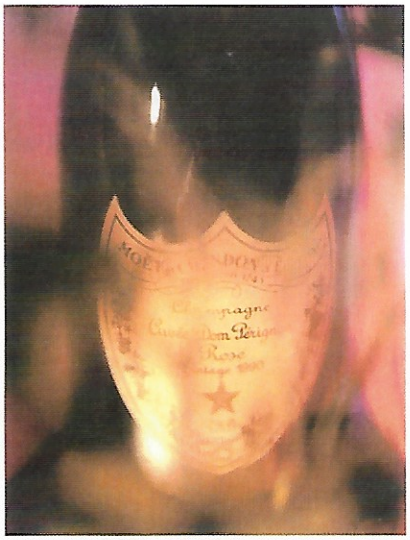
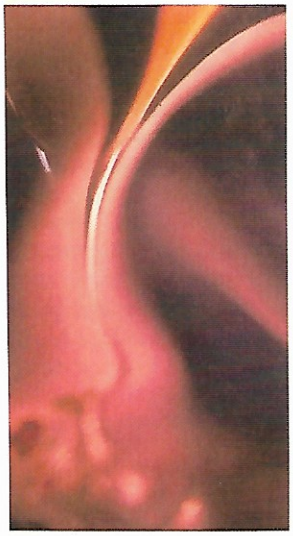
Dom Pérignon

Portrait of a Perfectionist

J.D. Chou

Lives separated by more than two centuries, yet both recognised as true innovators of their time: monk Dom Pérignon for discovering the fine art of champagne making and J.D. Chou for founding Tao painting. Stumbled upon almost by chance and using tools devised generations earlier, it is the unique methods of creation that ensure these products are truly original.





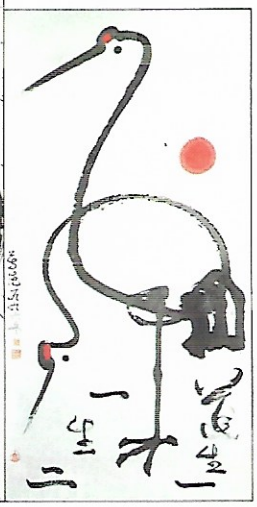
As a child, inspired by paintings in his parents' antique shop, Chou began to draw, and a decade later, moved to Paris where he took up western oil painting. Chou's love of oriental culture and ink painting, however, brought him to Japan in 1968 to learn the art of Zen, which, after four years, he took to another dimension, creating Tao painting.

Not consciously seeking to develop a new art form, Chou's own style simply came to him one day: "It was true enlightenment; the whole thing started from nothing." Based on Taoist philosophy that embodies Yin and Yang — opposite yet complementary poles that exist in everything, with Yin representing all that is feminine, dark, withdrawn and passive; and Yang all that is masculine, bright, outgoing and active — the practical harmony of opposites is distinctly evident in each composition.

Every painting represents perfection that can never again be repeated. Practice is not the key to perfection here: Tao art requires knowledge of philosophy, a good spirit and a balanced mind. Meditation and positive 'chi' (energy) are important aspects of Chou's works, with the brush guiding his hand in rapid yet controlled

The Artist, J.D. Chou

Dragon

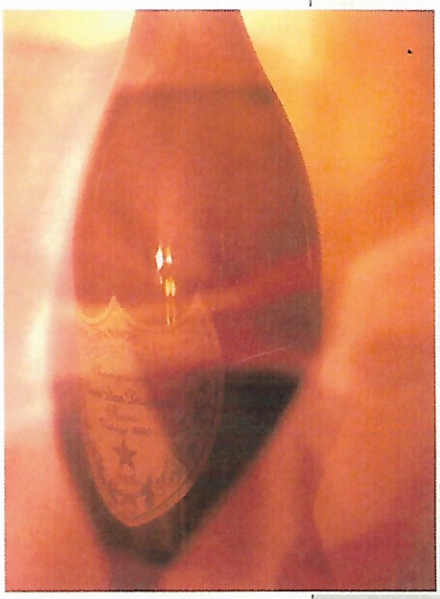


Double Crane

One Stroke Rooster

movements. Inspired by his travels, Chou's symbolic representations evoke a spirit that reveals true understanding of his subjects and *'One Stroke Rooster'* reveals 'chi'-inspired art at its finest — one brush stroke from comb to tail, it's truly a one-off masterpiece.

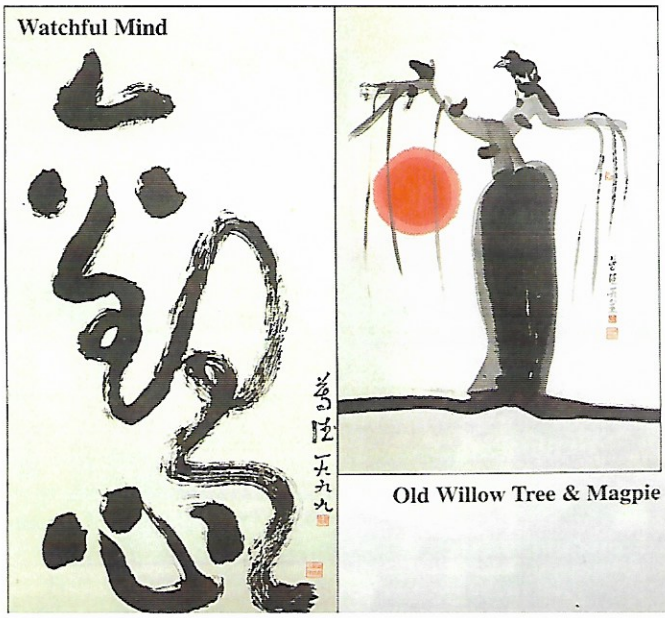
In line with Taoism, simplicity is of paramount importance in both Chou's studio — an empty room, with a blanket on the floor beneath his rice paper — and his works, which comprise clean lines: as in *'Double Crane'* where Chou has captured the bird's complex structure and its motion in a few simple strokes.



Fine champagne and Tao paintings are created using traditional ingredients and conventional tools: grapes, sunshine and presses; inks, brushes and rice paper. However, just as no two Dom Pérignon cuvées are the same, so, no Tao painting can ever be recreated: perfection only gets one chance. Dom Pérignon would like to raise its glass to J.D. Chou, an artist with equal determination in reaching his goal as monk Dom Pérignon showed in creating one of the world's most respected wines.

J.D. Chou's works are available exclusively through C. P. Ching Gallery, Pacific Place; tel 2810 9033

Watchful Mind



Old Willow Tree & Magpie

(H.K. Tatler 2000 April)