

Chinese Paintings to Be Shown Here

An outstanding and valuable collection of Chinese paintings by Kan Wing-Lin, who has gained world recognition for his works, will be shown from Monday through Thursday, May 27, at Sordoni Art Gallery on the Wilkes College campus.

The collection, currently being shown at the Philbrook Art Center in Tulsa, Okla., will be exhibited for art devotees of Northeastern Pennsylvania, as a result of a grant from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation, New York.

The exhibit will open locally with a special showing and reception Monday at 8 p.m. in the Lounge Area of the gallery in the Stark Learning Center, S. River St.

The work of Kan Wing-Lin, whose paintings are seen in the exhibition, underscores the 20th Century Chinese painter's search for synthesis between

old and new, native styles and foreign.

Kan is an artist in the age-old tradition of Chinese painting, depicting themes from nature long cherished by Chinese painters: flower and bird paintings, bamboos and landscapes.

He was born in 1914 in Punyu, in Kuangsi Province. In 1941, he graduated from the School of Horticulture, National Kuangsi University in Kweilin, where he was appointed lecturer in horticulture after graduation. From 1941 to 1949, he lectured in Kuangsi University and Hai Nan University. In 1949, Professor Kan went to Hong Kong and operated a farm in the New Territories. Later, he served as horticulture consultant for the Education Department of Hong Kong.

Kan's lifelong interest in art began in early childhood with

the study of calligraphy and deepened as he explored the several schools of Chinese art.

In a departure from the traditional, he went on to master the techniques of Western oil and watercolor paintings. He first learned watercolor painting from his own brother and sister, Kan May-tin and Kan Sze-may. Later, he became a follower of Chao Shoa An, a leading painter of the Ling-nam school.

His compositions combine the color wash effects of Western painting with the themes and spontaneity of Chinese ink painting. His professional background as a horticulturist helped to nourish an intimacy with the contours and rhythms of natural forms and the scenery of his native province.

Examples of traditional Chinese themes abound in his paintings. Ink bamboo, a favor-

ite subject in Chinese painting, was given special importance and classified as a distinct subject of painting in the Hsian-ho hua-p'u, a compilation of paintings published in the Sung Dynasty (A.D. 960-1280). The theme is well represented among Professor Kan's works with bamboo in tones of ink or some with colored stalks and touches of color in the birds or insects included among them.

The exhibition will be open to the public without charge as a community service of the gallery and Wilkes College.