

**LAO LIAN BEN** is a contemporary Filipino artist who creates multidimensional abstract paintings. He is presented as one of the pioneers in the art of assembling in the Philippines. With cumulative sales of \$ 318,964, he ranked 483rd in the Artprice (Sales) ranking on the worldwide art market in 2015. Many of the artist's works are sold at auction, including "Wood Void" (1985), for \$ 109,159 at the Leon Gallery, Makati in 2015 and 'Under the Influence of Moonlight' (1979) sold for \$ 111,877 at Leon Gallery, Makati ('The Asian Cultural Council Philippines Art Auction 2017).

#### The artist

Lao Lian Ben is born in 1948 in the Philippines. He is graduated from the University of the East, School of Fine Arts, Major in Painting, Manila

#### Artwork

Lao Lian Ben is a painter of abstraction. He mainly paints wall sculptures. He creates movements by large layers of paint, superimposing objects and materials. In his works there is a play of contrasts between free organic forms and a geometrical order. The artist has a magisterial hand in the orchestration of blacks, whites, and greys. As visual analogues for spiritual search, Lao Lian Ben's paintings draws out the impressive radiance of light. The artist explains that his art is about silence. And a great serenity emerges from his mostly monochromatic works. They lead essentially to a deep contemplation rather in the sense of Zen tradition. "Like the empty bowl of a Buddhist monk, Lao Lian Ben's paintings, in their bare simplicity, offer an endless feast for thought" (Leovino Ma. Garcia).

Lao Lian Ben paints very large paintings, three of his latest paintings "Into Light," "Water" and "Monk's Table" shown at 'Lao Lianben, Black Water: A Monk's Dream' exhibition in 2015, measure 10 feet by 8 feet, "Soot" and "Monk's Table" measure 10 feet by 7 feet.