

*Min Wae Aung and Aung Myint: two great masters, two styles of painting in Myanmar*

*As an exhibition dedicated to the Burmese painter Min Wae Aung, 'The Journey Begins', opened in London, we approach the Burmese soul with two masters of the Myanmar painting, Min Wae Aung et Aung Myint. Min Wae Aung is well known for his portraits of buddhist monks and nuns performing their rituals, dressed in vibrant colours, that convey a sense of calm. Considered as a pioneer of the Rangoon Modernist Movement, Aung Myint has been painting in a semi-abstract Cubist style since the early 1970s. He explores social themes such as the mother and child. "I am working spontaneously, using black and red to paint faces, the artist explains [...] Black and red are fierce, and attract the audience. The faces are random, unintentional. It is my inspiration, unconscious". Both artists have very different styles. Min Wae Aung paints in a truly traditional style. He is a real master over light and shade. His faces are bordered with black so to highlight them. The works of Min Wae Aung have a spiritual dimension from which a feeling of serenity and peace emerges. His subjects are essentially monks on their morning alm round, or nuns collecting rice. He also explores the powerful energy of people grouping together for a common cause as well as the travel, with people walking. Aung Myint is especially known for his abstract paintings and his color palette - black, white and red - that are his signature. Though since the 1970's his style has evolved with splashing, smearing and dripping of paint in strokes, which strongly evoked the works of Jackson Pollock's. By the years he also created his own language, incorporating the line linked to the Burmese script and sacred art to create non-figurative paintings. His monochromatic drawings of mother and child rooted in the feeling of loss and abandonment after his mother's death when he was a child. His work evokes the fluid line and the form of works of modernist masters like Henty Moore or Pablo Picasso. This is Min Wae Aung sixth annual solo show in London. He features six acrylic paintings and more than 20 watercolours at Millennium Hotel Mayfair, organized with Tanya Baxter Contemporary, from 30 October to 30 November 2016.*