

Description	Image
Luo Shuzhong (1898 – 1969) Couplet in Clerical Script 1965 Pair of hanging scrolls, ink on paper Each 130.5 x 30 cm Collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art FA1977.0034	

Landscape that sets a high moral standard for itself – on Luo Shuzhong, *Couplet in Clerical Script*

Text: Wesley Lam Writer, poet, MA, Department of Chinese Language and Literature, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The sun shed its rays on ripe *xuan* paper

Subtle fragrance of artistry

I'd translate it as -

Landscape that sets a high moral standard for itself.

To copy pieces of broken white

background from the falling night

As you walk among them

You expose yourself through those

Irresistible paths

That forked from the main road of integrity

In negative image.

In the shape of the wind

It brushes past a hanging scroll

In the shape of water, a roll of flowing zigzags

Passes through me. A tiger crouches in the dark
In search of bright light. That is the hungry intestines of
The one who makes a rubbing out of a stele, or yourself.
I was there too, searching for a piece of open ground,
On a passing road.
And a thousand messes
That I fail to find.

The sun shed its rays on ripe *xuan* paper
Colours of spring are among branches.

2022.05.23