

# Basic Detail Report

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**Title**

Asking The Heavens - Portrait of Qu Yuan

**Date**

2001

**Primary Maker**

Rocky SS Wong

**Medium**

Watercolour on paper

**Dimensions**

425 x 305 mm

**Name**

Painting

**History**

The Dragon Boat Festival is a Chinese tradition dating from 278 BC. Held traditionally on the fifth day of the lunar month, to commemorate the death of China's great poet and political advisor Qu Yuan (340 - 278 BC), it combines Taoist principles and elements of dragon worship. Qu Yuan threw himself into the Miluo River in southern China in 278 BC as a protest against official corruption in the Kingdom of Chu. Hearing of this, people raced out in their dragon boats beating drums, throwing rice into the water and splashing it with paddles to stop the river dragon and fish eating his body. The festival has been held every year since. Rocky S S Wong was a painter and art tutor in China before coming to Australia in 1979. Finding it difficult to live off his art, he diversified his skills to work in events, mainly in the Chinese community. He has been part of the Australian Chinese dragon boat racing scene since it started, helping to organise the races, make decorations for the boats and repair damage to the boats.