

## Scenes of Rain in Chinese Paintings

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century

#### Fu Baoshi [Part 8]

Fu Baoshi loved painting waterfalls and a couple of those are included in the history. He painted rain scenes too.



Fu Baoshi, *Evening Rain in the Ba Mountains*, 1944

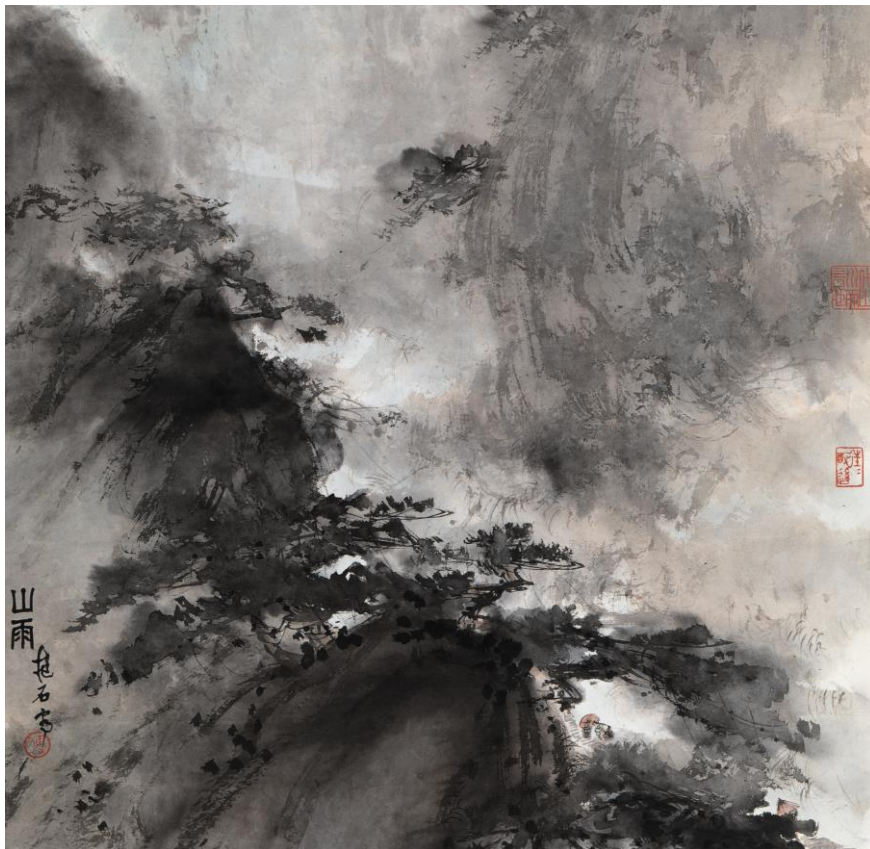


Fu Baoshi, *Whispering Rain at Dusk*, 1945

A river scene was probably also painted in the 1940s and a mountain landscape in Mao's time. Baoshi's technique for showing rain seems to be to apply delicate vertically-slanted washes over the dry ink of the landscape.



Fu Baoshi, *Boating in the Rain*, 1940s?



Fu Baoshi, *Mountain Rain*, 1959

#### Li Keran [9]

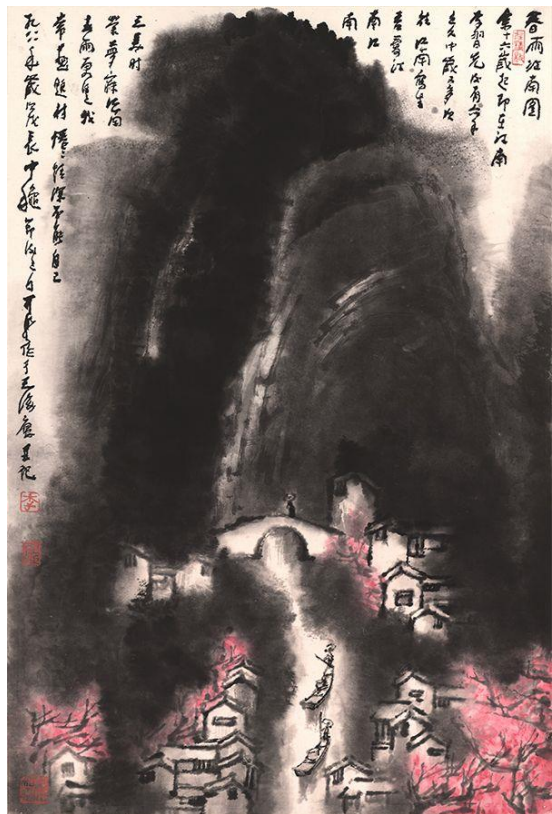
Li Keran painted a rain scene, produced partly drops of rain, as shown in Part 9. Like many other Chinese artists, Keran produced many scenes after rain. Some of his landscapes depict rain. In the first of these, Keran uses a similar technique to Baoshi (in the top left): very light wash, but this time more vertical.



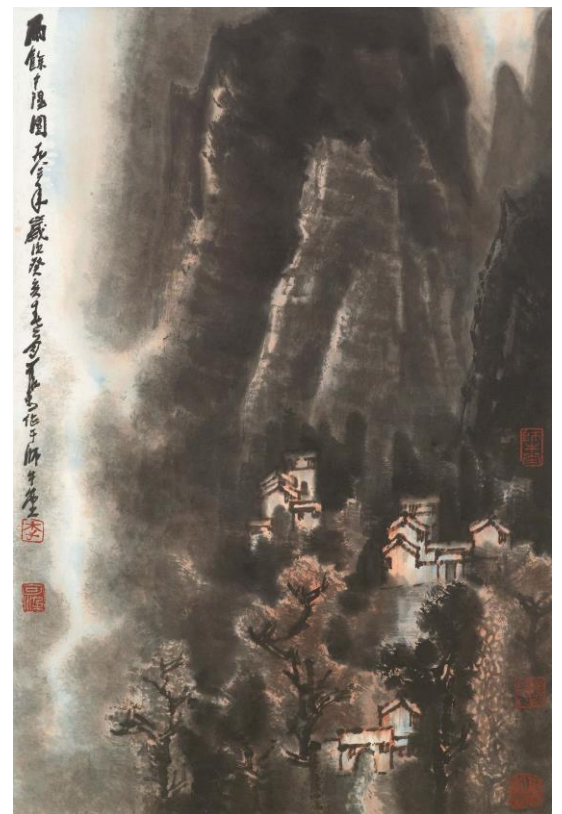
Li Keran, Spring Rain in Jiangnan, 1983



Li Keran, Spring Rain on Mount Shu, 1980s



Li Keran, Spring Rain in Jiangnan, 1988



Li Keran, Dawn in the Misty Rain, 1983

Wu Guanzhong [9]

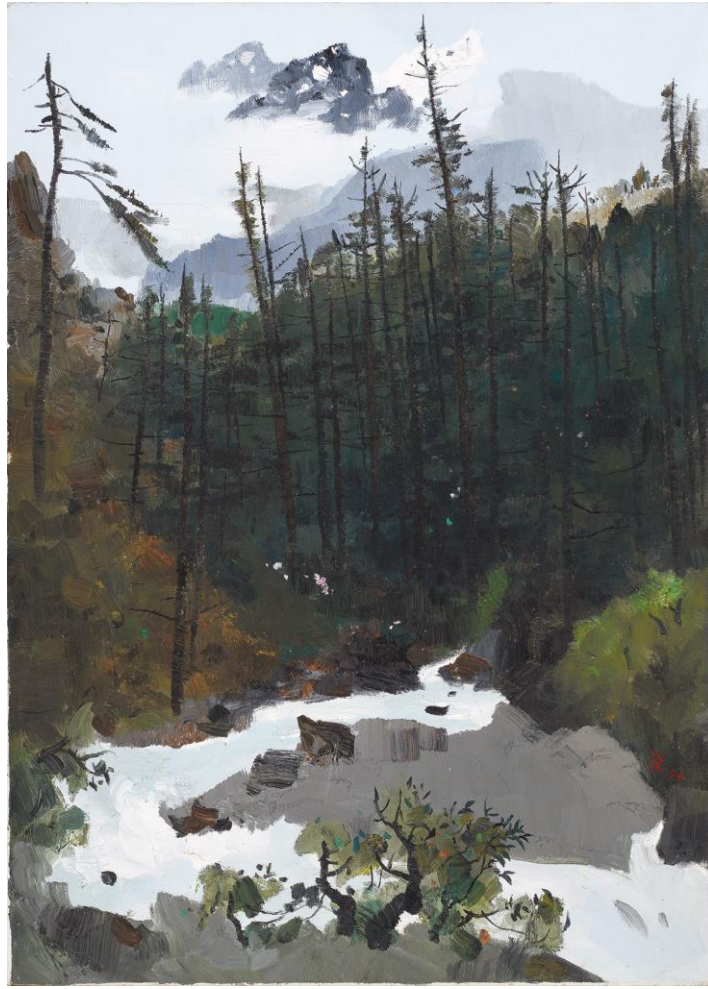
The genius Wu Guanzhong painted many genres, so might be expected to have included rainy scenes. He produced many landscapes after rain including the brilliant *Twin Swallows* (1981) shown in Part 9 (and also the one below of the Yulong Mountains which I could not resist). Only two of his paintings could be found showing rain; the second available (to me) only as a poor reproduction. Both show his technique of greying some of the normally white walls to depict dampness. The colourful umbrellas recall Maurice Prendergast's works.



Wu Guanzhong, *Morning Rain*, 1981



Wu Guanzhong, *Rain on the River*, 1962



Wu Guanzhong, *The Yulong Mountains after Rain*, 1996

Chiang Yee, is the author of the *Silent Traveller* series in various places of the world. He travelled to England and wrote and painted there. As expected, Yee saw a lot of rain in England, here in the Lake District.



Chiang Yee, *Going to Church in the Rain, Wasdale Head*, 1937

Yang Mingyi (born 1943) painted quite a few landscapes in fine mist and gentle rain. A few examples:



Yang Mingyi, *Mist and Rain of the Hills in my Hometown*, late 20<sup>th</sup> century



Yang Mingyi, *Mist and Rain in Southeast China*, 1990s



Yang Mingyi, *Landscape in Spring*, 1992

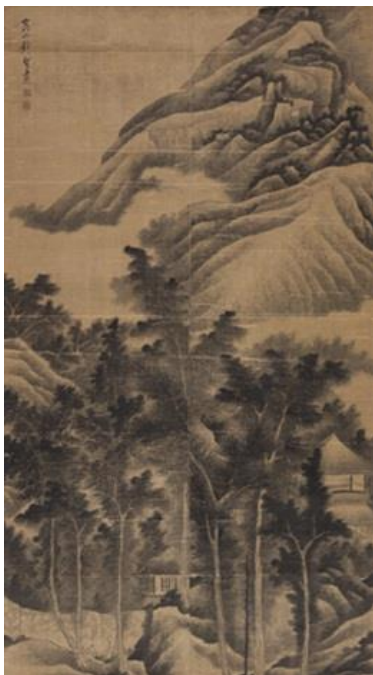


Yang Mingyi, *Autumn Mist*, 1990s

## Earlier Centuries

### Qing [Part 6]

Gong Xian painted "Summer Rain" but only a poor reproduction is available. Shitao painted mountains in mist a few times, but that's common throughout the landscape genre from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, as mist is the life force breathed out by mountains. Kuncan painted "Mountains washed by Rain", but this looks like the washing has finished and the drying has started.



Gong Xian, *Summer Rain*, 17<sup>th</sup> century



Kuncan, *Mountains Washed by Rain*, 1650/60s

Wang Hui painted a handscroll of misty rain



Wang Hui, *Summer Mountains, Misty Rain*, 1668 [Detail]

Wang Yuanqi painted a night scene with rain, but again the rain is difficult to discern.

#### Early Ming [Part 4]

Dai Jin painted a boating scene – the rain clearly visible as diagonal slants. The chap on the bridge and the man shielding the child on the boat hold their umbrellas at a suitable angle.

Shen Zhou painted two men in a pavilion either expecting rain or experiencing it. He also produced *Anchorage on a Rainy Night* – for which a good reproduction is available from the Metropolitan Museum. Despite the title, the inscription explains that Zhou painted this after the rain when everything had grown quiet. So, this isn't really a rain scene.

#### Yuan [Part 3]

Neither is the Wu Zhen's *Streams, Mountain Mist* ... but any excuse will do to show Wu Zhen. Perhaps the boatman who has sought shelter is expecting a storm?



Wang Yuanqi, *Night Rain on the Xiao and Xiang River*, 1699





Dai Jin, *Boat returning amid Wind and Rain*, 15<sup>th</sup> century



Shen Zhou, *Feeling of Rain*, 15<sup>th</sup> century



Shen Zhou, *Anchorage on a Rainy Night*, 1477



Wu Zhen, *Streams, Mountain Mist and Trees*, 14<sup>th</sup> century