

## Chinese Contemporary Art Group Exhibition at Contrasts Gallery, Shanghai

contrasts

Featuring works by **Chen Yun, Lian Xueming, Li Tianbing, Shao Fan, Shao Yan, Wang Tiande, Wei Ligang, Xue Tao, Yin Yanhua, Yi Zhou, Zhang Hao, Zhang Hong, and Zhang Huan**

**March 14–30, 2010**

**Opening: Sunday, March 14, 2010, 3–6pm**

**Contrasts Gallery, No. 181 Middle Jiangxi Road, G/F,  
Shanghai, China 200002**

**SHANGHAI – Contrasts Gallery is pleased to present a Chinese contemporary art group exhibition that showcases a variety of multidisciplinary artists working in ink brush, painting, sculpture, and installation. These artists are engaging in a dialogue between China and the West by reinventing Chinese traditions for the twenty-first century. Many of these artists try to reconcile China's past with today's consumer society and encroaching Western influences. Their works reflect their longing to preserve China's rich cultural heritage while adapting to the changing times.**

**Lian Xueming** addresses human sexual desire through naked elements in his paintings that mix abstract thought with contemporary experience. People tend to hide their sexual desire and his artworks exploit this. Through the use of flowers, using traditional Chinese landscape painting techniques, he compares beauty with vulgarity to communicate his views against male chauvinism.

**Shao Yan, Wang Tiande, Wei Ligang, and Zhang Hao** reinterpret traditional Chinese ink brush painting, each in their own unique way. These artists' works exemplify the strength of one concentrated stroke. Their symbolic lines illustrate the power and relationship between the body and mind.

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**Li Tianbing**, who was trained in oil painting in Paris, brings a duality to the canvas expressing his Chinese and Western influences. His works express China's ongoing transformation from an impoverished third world country into an international economic powerhouse. Li finds a balance between the promise of modernization and the value of tradition.

**Shao Fan's** sculptural works express a harmony due to the technique of mortise and tenon joinery where no nails are used. Pieces are simply slotted into each other to create a balanced whole. By dismantling Ming style furniture and combining it with contemporary materials, Shao expresses the philosophical and cultural changes he sees in China today. He is questioning the relationship between the past and present, East and West, as well as art and design.

**Chen Yun, Xue Tao, and Yin Yanhua** are all young generation Chinese artists. Chen's colorful computer generated drawings depict fantasies based on ancient myths, stories, and dreams. Xue's newspaper sculptures are very much a response to the constant barrage of information and the rapid social changes that young people are experiencing. Yin's paintings featuring his 'fingerprint' character are vivid and full of life; he uses the symbol to explore identity and freedom.

**Yi Zhou** is a young Chinese artist mostly based in Paris. She creates large multimedia installations that combine elements of film, digital animation, photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, and music. Her work is a complex synthesis of imagination, literal and mythological references, and new technology from the East and West.

**Zhang Hong** constructs his spiritual space with direct experience from urban life in an aesthetic pursuit for exquisiteness, seclusion, vicissitude, power and naivety. Zhang's paintings are filled with color and elation.

**Zhang Huan**, famous for his performance art, now creates monumental artworks in different media from ash and oil paintings to cowhide sculptures. The 'City' works are made up of layers of oil on canvas, creating a textured effect. The brushwork is reminiscent of the energy of Chinese ink brush strokes, creating a synthesis of opposing visual languages from Eastern and Western cultures. His cow skin sculpture follows an ancient Chinese technique where a Buddha face is moulded beneath a cowhide. Thus, Zhang reinvents traditions with a provocative contemporary age.

## **About Contrasts Gallery**

**Contrasts Gallery is dedicated to presenting creative excellence in art and design from East and West to the international art community. Founded by Pearl Lam in 1992 in Hong Kong, the Gallery nurtures and promotes creative talents where art, architecture, and design intersect. Contrasts Gallery has evolved from a philosophy rooted in Chinese “Literati” art, which promotes art for the sake self-cultivation and embraces creativity without hierarchies. The gallery’s exhibition program is designed to create new cultural exchanges by representing artists from all parts of the world working in divergent traditions and across disciplines. The gallery’s 2010 schedule includes exhibitions by many leading Chinese contemporary figures: Zhang Hao, Yi Zhou, Wei Ligang, Lan Zhenghui, Li Tianbing, Shao Fan and Hans Hartung. Contrasts Gallery is based in Shanghai with an additional gallery in Beijing.**

**For additional information and images, please contact:**

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