

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 20 works on show
July 18-August 5, 2008
Turner Carroll Gallery
725 Canyon Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 986-9800

• SHOW LOCATION SANTA FE, NM

HUNG LIU

Asia rising

Just as she mixes various media to create her large-scale oil paintings, Hung Liu also combines Asian culture, American history and her own personal experiences for her new paintings at the Turner Carroll Gallery in Santa Fe.

“When you see different sides, you begin to realize how complex history is,” says Liu. “One of our neighbors in Texas was a veteran; he told us that during the Korean War he flew over China to drop bombs, but when we went away he looked after our house. Neighbors become enemies, become friends again; it’s a very strange thing. The complexity of history is not a one-sided story. There is no clear answer. I think you should leave the ambiguity there forever.”

Liu was born in 1948, a year before the creation of the People’s Republic of China. She saw the development of the Anti-Rightist Movement as well as the horrors of The Great Leap Forward some 20 years later. In her youth she was also shipped to the country to work as a farm worker under harsh conditions. She spent time studying at the Beijing Teachers College and the Central Academy of Fine Arts where she based her studies around mural painting.

Throughout her career, Liu has made a point of connecting Chinese people with the images of their heritage, from cranes and plum blossoms to birds and flowers.

“My generation thought that traditional painting was dead, old, decorative,” says Liu. “I constantly work hard and try to surprise myself and surprise other people. I have energy, constant creative energy, and I’m always trying to learn new things and figuring out what comes next.”

Much of Liu’s new work is based on the 1949 Chinese propaganda film, *Daughters of China*. Liu was shown the film as

a child and feels that it helped shape her expectations of “women as protagonists in the emerging socialist utopia.”



NUWA AND HER CHILDREN, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL, 60 X 41"

The Collectors Say . . .

"Hung Liu's masterpieces exhibit respect for Asian culture brought forward with contemporary overlays. In a new century of 'Asia Rising,' Hung Liu encompasses the depth of both cultures without forgetting her personal history."

— Mac Hargrove and Phebe Phillips



THE TRAVELERS, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL, 41 X 41"



BLUE BOY II, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL, 30 X 90"



THE BIRDERS, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL, 41 X 41"



STAGE LOVE, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL, 46 X 41"



ARTIST HUNG LIU

The Gallery Says . . .
"I believe that Hung Liu's rare genius is her ability to combine engaging and visually appealing images with the conceptual and intellectual tightness of her top-tier, contemporary art peers."

— *Michael Carroll, Owner,
 Turner Carroll Gallery*

"Usually, I paint from historical photographs of China, but in this case the film offered me a sequence of panoramic stills, each frame filled with the heroic and desperate struggles of eight female soldiers who, in 1938, sacrificed their lives to save the retreating Chinese Army."

While the utopia never came, it still provided Liu with a strong background and inspiration for her paintings.

"Of course, utopia never arrived, but a kind of hard-won feminism stayed with me the rest of my life and served me well in America," says Liu. "History is not a static image or a frozen story. It is not a noun. Even if its images and stories are very old, it is always flowing forward. History is a verb." ●

*For a direct link to the
 exhibiting gallery go to* 
www.americanartcollector.com