



**Chinese American
Arts Council**

Gallery 456

For Immediate Release

20 April 2009

HOW CHINESE:

Expanding the Discourse on Chinese Contemporary Art

Lishan Chang

Shen Chen

Eric Jiaju Lee

Tenzin Phuntsog

Lisa Ross

Yuh-Shioh Wong

May 1 - June 5, 2009

Opening reception: Fri, May 1, 6 - 9pm

Panel discussion & reception: Fri, May 15, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Gallery 456

Chinese American Arts Council

456 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10013

Tel: 212.431.9740

www.caacarts.org

Gallery hours: M – F, 12-5pm and by appointment

Gallery 456/Chinese American Arts Council is pleased to present HOW CHINESE: Expanding the Discourse on Chinese Contemporary Art, a group exhibition which is also participating in Asian Contemporary Art Week with a panel discussion and reception. Conceived jointly by art historian Aileen June Wang and artist Eric Jiaju Lee, the exhibition seeks to revise the mainstream definition of contemporary Chinese art. This category is often associated with artists who are based in mainland China, work in a figurative style, and address the Cultural Revolution and its legacy, or life in Communist China today. These artists, however, represent but a portion of the global Chinese population. Approximately thirty-five million Chinese reside elsewhere, and there are over fifty-five ethnic minorities in the country. The experiences of these groups differ from those in the mainland and the mainstream, with other cultures often having a significant influence on them as well. HOW CHINESE draws on artists representing a spectrum of the Chinese diaspora, as well as non-ethnic Chinese. Their works offer a complex and nuanced perspective about the way China and its culture has, or has not, influenced their consciousness and creativity. Some question the relevance of ethnic ancestry and cultural memory in the formation of an identity and artistic style. In contrast to the representational style of popular contemporary Chinese art, the works in this show are predominantly non-representational. They challenge the conventional notion of what “Chinese” art should be and what being Chinese means. The title of the exhibition operates simultaneously as a statement and a question. It was inspired by a query posed innocently to artist Eric Jiaju Lee by his grandfather-in-law: “How Chinese are you?”



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HOW CHINESE is participating in Asian Contemporary Art Week with a panel discussion and reception on Friday, May 15th from 5:30 to 7:30pm with the artists, curators and distinguished guest, art critic Jonathan Goodman. www.acaw.net

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



This exhibition is funded in part by our sole corporate sponsor, China Springboard, Inc. www.chinaspringboard.com

PEARL RIVER MART

Refreshments for both Opening and Panel Discussion receptions were generously provided by Pearl River Mart, 477 Broadway, between Grand St. and Broome St., New York, NY 10013. www.pearlriver.com

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