

News Release

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Transforming Traditions: Panel discussion to open new exhibition at DU's Myhren Gallery

A panel discussion about contemporary Chinese art will precede the opening reception for “Transforming Traditions: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Logan Collection” at the Victoria H. Myhren Gallery, University of Denver. The panel will feature artists Liu Hung, Yu Fan, and Jiao Xingtao, together with noted curator Jeff Kelley. It will take place in Sturm Hall’s Lindsey Auditorium on the DU campus.

As China assumes its role as major trading partner to the world, its artists have blended traditional artistic practices with western models, creating internationally celebrated artworks. Panel members will speak to the exhibition theme of “transforming traditions” in relation to their own contemporary work, and their approaches to surface, source material, and subject matter.

Liu Hung (more commonly known as Hung Liu in the US) is a painter and installation artist living in the Bay Area. She is represented in the exhibition by paintings and a video inspired by a popular tale of military heroism and a large tapestry derived from an earlier portrait by Lui of a courtesan. **Jiao Xingtao’s** *trompe l’œil* sculptures of gum wrappers and boxed or covered objects evoke traditional Chinese Court-style artmaking in which surface decoration and finish are crucial to an object’s worth; likewise, **Yu Fan’s** figures are both about surface and - like Liu - folklore and ideology. Two works by Yu will be shown at DU’s SAAH March 19–April 12, 2009. Both sculptors live in China and will be resident artists at DU in early March. **Jeff Kelley** is curator of the recent SFMOMA exhibition of contemporary Chinese art: “Half-Life of a Dream: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Logan Collection”. He is a writer and critic; educator; Consulting Curator of Contemporary Art at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco; and is Chinese Art Advisor to the Logan Collection. Moderated by **Tom Whitten**, project curatorial consultant.

What: Transforming Traditions: Panel Discussion with Liu Hung, Yu Fan, Jiao Xingtao, and Jeff Kelley. Moderated by Tom Whitten.

When: Thursday, March 5, 2009. 4–5.30 p.m.

Where: Lindsey Auditorium, Room 281, Sturm Hall, 2000 East Asbury Ave, Denver CO 80208

Cost: Always free.

Hours: 12–4 p.m. daily.

Related Exhibitions: Transforming Traditions: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Logan Collection. March 5–April 26. With Ai Weiwei, Chen Wenling, Huang Binyan, Jiao Xingtao, Lin Tianmiao, Liu Hung, Sui Jianguo, Zhang Huan, Zhang Dali. Location: Myhren Gallery, 2121 East Asbury Ave. Sculptures by Yu Fan and Chen Wenling. Location: Myhren Gallery; School of Art & Art History; Penrose Library. Dates: March 19–April 12.

The University of Denver (www.du.edu), the oldest private university in the Rocky Mountain region, enrolls approximately 11,117 students in its undergraduate and graduate programs. The Carnegie Foundation classifies the University of Denver as a Research University with high research activity.