

## EXHIBITIONS

Jenny M. Lin, *Skiing Over the Mountain* (2010).

PHOTO COURTESY OF 99 DEGREE ART CENTER

Ten members of the North American Pastel Artists Association present their work in **Joint Pastel Exhibition (國際粉彩名家聯展)**, a group show of paintings employing still life, city and outdoor scenes rendered in a realist style. Established in 1997 by prolific Taiwanese pastel artist Jason Chang (張哲雄), the association's current president and a featured artist, the collaborative seeks to raise public awareness of this relatively neglected art form. Sylvie Cabal, Fong Ling (林峰伶), Dick McEvoy and William Hosner are among the more well-known participating artists.

■ 99 Degrees Art Center (99 藝術中心) 5F, 259, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段259號5F). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 2700-3099

■ Until April 25

Taiwanese sculptor and painter Chu Fan-yi (朱芳毅) seeks to simplify the relationship between three-dimensional objects and space in **The Existence Between Memory and Dream (存在記憶與夢境之間)**, a series of abstract demirelief sculptures affixed to canvases and hung on walls like paintings.

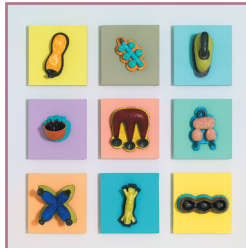
Chu Fan-yi, *Objects, Image, Dream*, 2009.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EVER HARVEST ART GALLERY

■ Ever Harvest Art Gallery, 2F, 107, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段107號2樓). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 6:30pm. Tel: (02) 2752-2353

■ Until April 25

The National Museum of History has held several exhibitions by "Picasso of the East" Chang Dai-chien (張大千) over the past several years. Little, however, is known about the two teachers who exerted a formative influence on Dai, one of the 20th century's greatest ink painters. **The Mentors of Chang Dai-chien — Painting and Calligraphy of Zeng Xi and Li Ruiqing (張大千的老師—曾熙、李瑞清書畫特展)** seeks to fill that gap and highlight their novel approaches to this genre by displaying 77 works of calligraphy and ink painting done by these two teacher-artists.

■ National Museum of History (國立歷史博物館), 49 Nanhai Rd, Taipei City (台北市南海路49號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 2361-0270. General admission is NT\$30

■ Until May 30

A look at the unique process of wood firing is presented in **Exhibition of Anagama Pottery (陶博館六窯柴燒成果展)**. When unglazed clay objects are fired in kilns that use plant material as fuel, the ash melts onto the pottery, forming a natural ash glaze of uneven thickness. This glaze often creates diverse textures because of the clay's varying composition and different firing techniques and methods of placing the works into the kiln. The works on display were made by ceramicists, ceramics instructors, kiln owners and students.

■ Yingge Ceramics Museum (鶯歌陶瓷博物館), 200 Wenhua Rd, Yingge Township, Taipei County (台北縣鶯歌鎮文化路200號). Open daily from 9:30am to 5pm, closes at 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Tel: (02) 8677-2727

■ Until April 25

**Insights into Established Prosperity: Ding Guanpeng's Painting of "Peace for the New Year" (靜觀建福—丁觀鵬〈畫太簇始和〉)** presents a Rabelaisian look at imperial Beijing through the works of Ding Guanpeng (丁觀鵬), an "Artist of the First Rank" painter under the Qianlong Emperor (乾隆帝). Ding excelled at painting Buddhist and Taoist subjects as well as figures and landscapes. This exhibition, located on the museum's second floor, illustrates Ding's fascination with the celebratory atmosphere that grips China's capital city during the Lunar New Year. His paintings depict acrobats performing in front of teahouses and martial artists, tightrope walkers and plate spinners in temple plazas filled with fortune-tellers and diviners. Also on the second floor, **The Ancient Art of Writing: Selections From the History of Chinese Calligraphy (筆有千秋業)** offers a look at the history and development of Chinese calligraphy. From the small seal script of the Qin Dynasty (秦朝) and the clerical script of the Han Dynasty (漢朝) to the tradition of woodblock printing begun during the Song Dynasty (宋朝) and the innovative "stele school" of the Qing Dynasty (清朝), the exhibit offers a comprehensive and chronological survey of Chinese calligraphy over the past two millennia.

■ National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院), 221, Zhishan Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市至善路二段221號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9am to 5pm, closes at 8:30pm on Saturdays. Tel: (02) 2881-2021

■ Until June 25

Below: Kuo Wei-kuo, *Inescapable Jumbo Tower* (2009).Bottom: Gallerygoers peruse Kuo Hung-kun's *Transplant* (2010) at an opening party held at Chi-Wen Gallery on March 6.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIN &amp; LIN GALLERY

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHI-WEN GALLERY



# Crawl, interrupted

‘Taipei Times’ reporters Blake Carter and Noah Buchan planned a ‘gallery crawl’ to explore some of the more than 100 galleries in Taipei. They made it to two

BY **BLAKE CARTER** AND **NOAH BUCHAN**  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER AND STAFF REPORTER

## Three o'clock — Blake: Noah's going to be pissed off.

We finally found a day when we both have free time for the “Taipei gallery crawl” we've been talking about for months and planned to meet at noon. I jump out of bed and call Noah. He doesn't answer. Maybe he'll just do the article without me. I run to the bathroom, stick my head under the faucet and run back to answer my ringing phone.

“Sorry, I just woke up. I'll be there in 20 minutes,” I say while pulling on a sock.

Noah is not amused.

I look at my window. It's pitch dark, 3am.

## Nine hours later:

I'm sipping a vodka milk tea outside Eslite Bookstore's Dunhua Branch (台北敦南誠品) and studying a gem of a pamphlet: *Gallery Guide No. 8*, published by the Art Galleries Association R.O.C. (AGA). The poster-sized fold-out has maps to art spaces in Taipei, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Hsinchu and Chiayi cities, as well as a few in Taoyuan, Miaoli and Taichung counties.

AGA director Joanne Chen (陳章晴) says the guide is available at more than 175 locations nationwide including galleries, MRT stations and Eslite bookstores.

When Noah arrives, we have a quick lunch at a BYOB coffeshop and plan our route. He has an appointment at 4pm and isn't drinking — the gall — so we decide to limit ourselves to quick stops at four or five galleries.

Finding them won't be hard.

“Four new galleries have opened in the last six months,” Chen says. “There are more than 100 galleries in Taipei City; 75 percent of them are contemporary and most of them are in or around Da-an District.”

According to the map, there are more than 30 galleries within walking distance. Most have shows that don't see many non-collector visitors after their openings, so the staffers are usually happy to give short tours and explain what the artists are trying to do.

After a quick stop at a convenience store for another “electric milk tea,” we're off.

## Lin & Lin — Noah:

Around the corner from Eslite is Lin & Lin Gallery (大未來林舍畫廊). Established 17 years ago, the gallery began as a partnership between Tina Keng (耿桂英) and Tim Lin (林天民). After Keng struck out on her own last summer with Tina Keng Gallery (大未來耿畫廊), Lin's son, David Lin (林岱蔚), took over as manager of Lin & Lin.

Over cups of “old man's tea” (老人茶) — no relation to Blake's concoction but refreshing nonetheless — the elder Lin discussed

his changing focus on art, one that parallels changes in Taiwan's market over the past two decades.

Lin said that after making a small fortune selling Western and European modern art to Japanese clients in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he returned to Taiwan and opened up Lin & Keng Gallery to promote Chinese modern and contemporary art.

“At that time there wasn't much of a market for Chinese art,” he said. “You could buy a Zao Wou-ki (趙無極) [painting] at auction for US\$10,000.” A Zao painting fetched NT\$63.2 million (US\$1.98 million) at a December auction last year.

As prices of Chinese modern and contemporary art began to balloon in the late 1990s, Lin said he became “concerned about local artists.”

“How do we develop these artists when everyone is focused on high-priced [Chinese] art? So we began to promote young [Taiwanese] contemporary artists,” he said.

If the current exhibit, Taiwan Art Rise, is anything to go by, that's exactly what the gallery did. The group show features a who's who of Taiwan's top contemporary artists, including works by Chen Chieh-jen (陳界仁), Wu Tien-chang (吳天章) and Kuo Wei-kuo (郭維國).

And business is good. Two weeks after the exhibit opened, 75 percent of the works on display were already sold. The gallery also plans to move to new, much larger, digs in June (16 Dongfeng St, Taipei City, 台北市東豐街16號).

“We want to promote many Taiwanese artists but right now with such a small space, we can only show one work by each artist in a group exhibit,” David Lin said.

We still have more galleries to view, so we pack up and get ready to leave. Besides, Blake looks as though he's itching for another swig of his tea. Before heading out into the balmy Taipei afternoon, the elder Lin tells us he will continue to promote high-caliber Taiwanese artists working in video, painting and sculpture while his son David uses his background in fine art and industrial design to promote a new generation of Taiwanese artists.

## Chi-Wen Gallery — Blake:

Noah is taking this much too seriously. Two-handed namecard exchanges, leaves in hot water called “old man's tea,” in-depth questions: It's all fun and good, but we're well behind schedule.

Less than a block from Lin & Lin's current location is Chi-Wen Gallery (其致畫廊), established in 2004 as Taipei Moma (hat tipped to the Museum of Modern Art in New York) and slightly hidden on the third floor above a wine and cigar bar called Habano 19.

Joanne C.W. Huang (黃其致) opened the small space after working for six years at Hanart (漢雅軒), one of the largest galleries in Taiwan until it closed its doors here in 2003. The art



market lulled around that time and Hanart, which focused on Chinese and Taiwanese painters and sculptors, is now based in Hong Kong.

Huang studied painting at university and dabbled in travel writing before working at Hanart, and when it closed she decided to open her own gallery.

About two years later she decided “Moma” was a silly name for a gallery the size of a 7-Eleven and switched to “Chi-Wen.” Huang specializes in Taiwanese new media art and photography, but doesn't split hairs.

“Some artists, even if they're video artists, they also do paintings,” she says. “They use other media too.”

The current show is a solo exhibition of paintings by Taiwanese artist Kuo Hung-kun (郭弘坤), and the next is Huang's first collaboration with a Chinese art space. The opening for Ying Yefu (嬰野賦), a Xian-based artist represented by Shanghai's Art Labor Gallery who uses a traditional Chinese ink-painting style to depict surrealist images of four-eyed babies and girls doing strange things with their ponytails, will be held on May 8 at 3pm.

Most importantly: Will there be booze?

“Of course. Wine, beer, everything,” Huang says.

So why are we supping leaves in hot water again?

**NOAH:** Because not everyone wants to be slurping their words at an afternoon interview, and I have another one in half an hour. Never mind, with more than 100 galleries left on the AGA hit list, there will be plenty of opportunities to go on another gallery crawl in the future.

*This is the first article in an occasional series.*

## EXHIBITION NOTES:

Lin & Lin Gallery (大未來林舍畫廊), 13, Ln 252, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段252巷13號). Open Tuesdays to Fridays from 10am to 7pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 7pm. Tel: (02) 2721-8488

► Taiwan Art Rise ends April 14

Chi-Wen Gallery (其致畫廊) 3F, 19, Ln 252, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段252巷19號3F). Open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 11am to 7pm. Tel: (02) 8771-3372

► Kuo Hung-Kun: Island Gardening (郭弘坤 / 海島園藝) ends April 17