

**Burnett Gallery & Elaine Jacob Foyer Feature:
China, Past and Present**
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.
Exhibit remains through May 4

The spotlight of the world will be focused on China in August of 2008, when the Olympics will be held in Beijing. Capitalizing on the publicity, the history, and the events that will accompany this international competition, Gualala Arts has chosen April 2008 for a fine art exhibition, titled *China, Past and Present*, opening April 12, with a reception from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and running through May 4th.

Art of different media will be featured by artists from northern and southern California, Nevada and China. Representation of traditional and contemporary Chinese art, thus the *China, Past and Present*, reflects a country which honors its past tradition, but one that enthusiastically embraces a technological present and future.

Early elements of Chinese art fashioned from clay are found in the stoneware pots of Sophia Lenz. Born in Hong Kong, raised in Vietnam, and emigrating to the United States at age 15, Sophia still continues her art education, which influences her creations in clay. She has customized five vessels for this exhibit, using her eclectic, contemporary style with a conceptual approach.



China has now become a leading country on the art scene, not only in its architecture and its fine art, but as a strong collector by private parties. In assembling this show, it became apparent that modern concepts would be a necessary ingredient in creating a profile of China in the contemporary world.

“The Celestial Horses” by Fei Pai are a second generation tradition in his family’s unique splash-ink free-style technique of spontaneous, swift yet powerful strokes, to capture the horse’s energy and motion. The paintings are a tribute to the Celestial Horses’ nobility and auspicious power, and to their virtue. When his horses soar through the clouds, walk through the paths, or stumble against strong winds, they are “I as I am them.”

Fei Pai graduated from National Cheng-Chi University, Taiwan, in 1974, with a major in journalism, then moved to San Francisco to be with his father, the legendary General Yeh Tsui Pai, providing the genesis for “Yeh Fei Pai’s Celestial Horses.” He studied TV production, film and music at SF State Univ. then became a TV producer and song writer in Taiwan. All these disciplines are incorporated into his paintings, which are now on tour in the USA and Canada.

Photography is a favorite of many of the artists, the advent of digital cameras making it a more accessible art form. Dr. Leping Zha, a physicist of San Mateo, CA, has made fine art landscape photography his second profession. His annual trips to the Yellow Mountains in China reflect in photography the subjects incorporated in the ancient paintings of Chinese art.



China, Past and Present will be an eclectic show of painting, sculpture, weaving, ceramics, furniture, jewelry and fabric, accompanied by visuals of the Chinese Temple in Mendocino. It is hoped that through the arts there can be a cultural and philosophical understanding of the people whose creations reflect their place in time.



Authentic Six Course Chinese Dinner

Accompanying this exhibit, Gualala Arts will present an authentic Six-Course Chinese Dinner on Friday, April 25, 2008. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m. There will be a no host bar. The dinner will be \$35 if you reserve by April 18, \$40 after that if there is space available.