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## **Wu Shaoxiang – Words and Images- Recent Paintings and Sculptures by Wu Shaoxiang**

**Oct 6 -16, 2004**

The directors of Plum Blossoms Gallery take great pleasure in presenting *Words and Images*, a solo exhibition of acrylic paintings on canvas and coin sculptures by the Austria based Chinese artist Wu Shaoxiang. *Words and Images* will be on view at the gallery from October 6 - 16, 2004.

Famous for his unique coin sculpture, Wu Shaoxiang has recently created works that play with words and images of political figures in China. 'The New Age Cadre' series portray the bust of Chairman Mao combines with effeminate qualities of Tang figurines. Where China today is said to be at a flourishing age by some officials, it is interesting that it draws in parallel with the prosperous times of Tang dynasty more than a thousand year's ago. The sculpture 'The Chinese Cat' depicts a communist red cat capturing a gold fish, a symbol of capitalism, is inspired by the famous quote of Deng. The paradox that found from Wu's sculptural works leaves the audiences to interpret from different perspectives.

In the series of acrylic paintings, Wu reinterpreted Wang's "Lan Ting Xu" (Preface to The Orchid Pavilion Collection), which is the most important piece in the history of Chinese calligraphy. By reforming the characters in Lan Ting Xu as individual abstract paintings of bright hues and the different juxtapositions of the pieces, Wu practises the post-modernist behavior. Wu allows the imagination and creativity of the audiences to interact with the game of words. He is complimenting Wang as an icon in the art of Chinese calligraphy and ,at the same time, bringing the monumental piece to modern world again in a different light.

Born in Jiangxi Province, China in 1957, Wu's principal training was obtained at Beijing's Central Academy of Arts and Design, where he also taught from 1987. He was very active in the Beijing art scene in 1980s and through his writing and avant-garde sculpture gained great acclaim. In 1989 Wu Shaoxiang moved to Austria, where he has made his home and studio. He has experienced tremendous success with exhibitions in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. At ease with wood, bronze and marble as well as his famous coins, Wu Shaoxiang has created art pieces which have been appreciated by public and amongst private collectors around the world.