

For immediate release
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Zhu Wei – China, China Aluminum

Launch of a New Sculpture Series

Represented by: Plum Blossoms Gallery
G6, 1 Hollywood Road, central, Hong Kong, T: 852.2521 2189
Gallery Hours: Monday - Saturday 11:00am – 7:00pm, Sunday & Public Holidays Closed

Plum Blossoms Gallery takes great pride in introducing the latest sculpture series, *China, China Aluminum* released by the well-known Chinese artist, Zhu Wei. With this iteration of his groundbreaking *China, China* sculpture series Zhu Wei ventured outside the comfort zone of his home studio in Beijing to produce exquisitely modeled and finished cast aluminum sculptures in a state of the art USA foundry.

China, China Aluminum continues Zhu Wei's exploration of a theme rooted in the concept of an eventual historic discovery of a contemporary twenty-first century "imperial" tomb excavated and exposed in a similar manner to the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the legendary First Chinese Emperor which was unearthed near the modern city of Xian. The *China, China* sculptural series draws its artistic inspiration from later period Han dynasty terracotta figurines, particularly warriors, in military formation and characterized by their worn excavated appearance. The two figure sculpture sets are positioned in a formation of salutation. Unlike the Han soldiers who were fitted with armor, Zhu Wei's version has his attendants dressed in *Zhongshan* suits, better known as the "Mao Suit" which whimsically places them in their contemporary setting. Standing upright, faceless and tilted forward in a perpetual *kowtow* or Chinese bow, the sculptures suggest courtesy but also imply the classical virtue that obedience is superior to confrontation. Appearing ancient yet thoroughly modern contextually, the *China, China* series has found many admirers who have embraced the artist's fresh attitude and poignant insight into contemporary life in the fast-paced evolution of today's China.

The current *China, China Aluminum* series is presented in two new editions of nine sets of sculptures, each signed and numbered by the artist. The sculptures are available in two color tone variations: Painted Pottery and Archaic Bronze. River Projects SA, renowned for their close collaborations with Anish Kapoor, John Baldessari and other important contemporary artists published these new editions. The beautifully cast aluminum sculptures are hand painted with durable enamel colors developed for the automotive industry. Standing at 125 cm (49 inches) tall the *China, China Aluminum* sculptures are animated with a monumental feeling adding a definitive presence to any space they inhabit, indoors or

outdoors. Zhu Wei is recognized for his ability to archaize familiar images from China's long past and reform those icons into contemporary art. The *China, China Aluminum* sculptures feature a dusty weathered surface appearance that is masterfully incorporated imbuing the sculptures with the timeless nature of China's long history and cultural complexities.

Born in Beijing in 1966, Zhu Wei began studying art at a young age. He joined the People's Liberation Army in 1982 and graduated from the PLA Art College in 1989. A few years later, his division was decommissioned and he enrolled at the prestigious Beijing Film Academy, graduating in 1993. Upon graduation, Zhu Wei established his own independent art studio. His artworks have been exhibited widely outside of China since 1994. He was one of the first avant-garde artists to support himself solely on the sale of his work without any connection to an art academy, museum or university. He is not attached to any school of thought, and has developed his own style utilizing traditional Chinese mediums chronicling the fast paced changes in modern Chinese life and reflecting the emotions of the people and events he depicts.

Well received by the public and his peers, Zhu Wei artworks have found favor with collectors. His paintings and sculptures have been regularly featured and have performed extremely well over the past few years in the momentous worldwide secondary auction market in contemporary Chinese art.

For more information please contact Khadinn Khan at (852) 2521 2189, email us at info@plumblossoms.com or visit our website at www.plumblossoms.com.