

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Yang Jin Long**

*Heart Like Flowing Water*

September 11<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 8 p.m.

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings by Yang Jin Long.

China began to expand its economic boundaries when Hong Kong was returned from British sovereignty in 1997, thus fostering widespread technological growth. In turn, contemporary Chinese art has reflected not just industrial development, but the permeation of Western ideology. Yang Jin Long's compositions reflect this change by their simulation of symbolic imagery. In his early academic years, Yang was influenced by the formality in Chinese watercolors and calligraphy. He strives to define a concept that allows him to explore relationships between the living and the constructed. In his work, he laments the loss of traditional culture to the material existence of modern society. Yang understands this reality, and proves in his paintings, that each can feed the other as a rich source of inspiration.

Yang Jin Long's work evokes an Eastern spirit. He calls upon Western forms where he pairs both modern and fabled human figures with iconic pop culture in surrealistic situations that defy instant logic. One can likely observe industrial debris and at the same time exquisitely rendered figures in fluid forms somewhat distorting the environment. His paintings are a mental tableaux, documenting and expanding his personal experiences.

While Yang is from China, his themes are universal. The imagery of the works in *Heart Like Flowing Water* transcends cultures. With a focus on color, cultural influences, eroticism, and industry, Yang constructs tangible dreamscapes which blur the lines between the illusionary and the genuine that exist in both the human imagination and the human condition. It is Yang's technical and imaginative skill that speaks to a broad audience universally as well as spiritually.

*Heart Like Flowing Water* marks an important occasion for Yang and his a family who have resided in Houston for two years. Yang was born in Zhenjiang, China, in 1960 and has been exhibiting internationally since 1998. After graduating from college in 1985, Yang became the Director of the Art Department at Zhenjiang University. Yang's major international solo exhibitions include the prestigious Pacific Cultural Foundation Art Center in Taipei, Taiwan. He has also received numerous awards in China and is in many prominent collections nationally as well as internationally. In January 2010, he had a solo exhibition at The Crow Collection of Asian art.

**Deborah Colton Gallery** is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography, performance, conceptual future media and public space installations.