

MEDIA RELEASE

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Yang Jin Long
Pure Space

January 13, 2007 through March 3, 2007

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 13, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present *Pure Space*, the newest series of paintings by Chinese artist Yang Jin Long. The exhibition opens Saturday, January 13, 2007 with a reception with the artist from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, and continues through March 3, 2007.

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's compositions reflect this change by their saturation of symbolic imagery. Influenced by the formal structure in Chinese watercolors and calligraphy early in his academic career, Yang strived to develop a concept of working that would allow him to explore relationships between the living and the constructed. He laments the loss of traditional culture to the material existence of modern society, but understands, 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 but calls upon Western forms wherein he often pairs hypermodern and fabled human figures with the detritus of pop culture iconography in surreal situations that defy immediate logic. One is as likely to find the industrial debris of society as one is to observe exquisitely rendered figures in contemporary or more traditional Chinese settings. Informed by surrealists Dali and Tanguy, Long's use of biomorphic, fluid forms displays a psychological distortion of environment. His paintings are, in a sense, mental tableaux, documenting and expanding the notion of his experience.

While Yang hails from China, his themes are undeniably universal. The imagery of the works in *Pure Space* transcends cultures, breaking apart the mind's eye into scattered fragments of representation that form a cohesive unit that is neither one civilization's nor another's. With a focus on color, cultural influences, eroticism, and industry, Yang constructs tangible dreamscapes that blur the lines between the illusory and the genuine that exist in both the human imagination and the human condition. It is Yang's technical and imaginative skill that allows these pictorial unions to succeed and speak to a broad audience on a more universal and spiritual level.

Pure Space marks an important occasion for Yang as he recently immigrated to the United States and now resides in Houston. Born in Zhenjiang, China, in 1960, Yang has been exhibiting internationally since 1998. After graduating from college in 1985, Yang accepted the position of Director of the Art Department at Zhenjiang University in his hometown. 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 has works placed in many prominent collections.

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, and conceptual and future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.