

Press release – for immediate release

### A Slow Song – Lin Hairong 2012 Oil Painting Exhibition

I am the worst commentator on my own paintings. Painting is a part of my life or at the very least an emotional outlet. Life, hobbies, recreations, friends, old memories...things that I see, feel, miss, and hope for are the inspiration of my paintings.

——Lin Hairong 2012

This summer, Longmen Art Projects will hold a special exhibition of a female artist titled “A Slow Song – Lin Hairong Oil Painting Exhibition 2012” for the first time since its founding in the fall of 2010.

Lin Hairong was born in 1975 in Heilongjiang Province and got her master’s degree in 2006 from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. Her life and work are mostly in the two cities of Beijing and Chongqing. Her artworks have always embodied strong feminine qualities. She loves serenity and shys away from the hustle and bustle; she admires innocence and dislikes arrogance. She tends to work when she is in a peaceful and carefree mood. She likes to use particular symbolic images to manifest Chinese literati’s character. She follows the train of thoughts and roams along the path that cuts across truth and imagination, history and reality, even literature and painting, yet never wandering too far.

“A slow song” includes more than thirty oil paintings Lin Hairong executed after 2008. Her paintings have a distinct rhythm, whispering her perception of life and art to the audience like a gentle breeze.

“A Slow Song - Lin Hairong Oil Painting Exhibition 2012” will run from June 9th to August 12, 2012.



Lin Hairong *Song of the Forest* Oil on Canvas  
180x200cm 2011



Lin Hairong *Early Spring by the West Lake* Oil on Canvas  
150x180cm 2011

“It’s obvious that Lin Hairong tends to use meticulously rendered female figures with symbolic significance to interpret her life experience.” said Mr. Pang Maokun, Associate Dean of Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, “No matter ancient or modern, Chinese or foreign, realistic or theatrical, they have been able to present us the subjects and fun of these paintings in a direct and vivid way. However, we can still see certain physical and emotional consistency in these ever-changing images. From this point of view, these feminine

figures embodies the artist's own spiritual world. What she tries to do is not to depict various lives through different characters so much as to experience different and complicated lives by playing different roles in her own paintings. As a female artist, she wants to pour out how she feels about the world, to express her thoughts on society, history, humanity, and truth of this world through the language of art. Lin Hairong has developed a unique style with simple forms, contained emotions and distinct ideas. I can't help but feel happy for her, knowing that she has been working so hard for these years."



Lin Hairong *Andhra Warrior Protecting the Frontier* Oil on Canvas  
250x200cm 2008



Lin Hairong *Intoxicating Wintry Night* Oil on Canvas  
180x200cm 2012

Lin Hairong spent most of her life on campus, which made her life quite simple and her paintings of that period relatively monotonous. After graduation, she became a wife and a mother, yet her life got even simpler than before. She is just drawing her life, hobbies, recreations, friends and old memories...things that she sees, feels, misses and hopes for. These are the fountain of her painting. "She carved out her own farmland on the canvas from which she can draw nutrients to nourish her faith. She draws beautiful rhymes from childhood and the age of innocence; she draws the words or poems we once read alone in adolescence and got deeply touched by, the sincere and selfless faces of our teenage friends..." said Ms. Huang Xiaoyan, renowned curator who once toured France for years and now teaches in National Taiwan University of Arts. "In the first decade of the 21st century, it seems the entire human race has entered into a state of collective tiredness. We have witnessed too many tragedies such as the 911 terrorist attack that destroyed the World Trade towers, and Mother Nature's counterattack of tsunami that ravaged the holiday paradise of south Asia. Wars, sporadic attacks, Fukushima nuclear disaster, global economic crisis, European debt crisis and even Wikileaks...one thing after another, the restless world finally tires us out. We need a quiet secluded place where we can isolate our souls from the world for a while."



Lin Hairong *Along Every Road No Men Go* Oil on Canvas  
180x200cm 2011



Lin Hairong *The Cranes are Flying South* Oil on Canvas  
200x180cm 2012

When Huang Xiaoyan first saw Lin Hairong's paintings, memory of the late 20th century immediately flashed back in her mind. At the end of the last century, European and Asian artists seemed to reach some tacit understanding in secret language. In Japan it was known as the *Superflat*<sup>1</sup> movement, while in the west, baby boomers born in the hippie-era

created a great number of retro and reclusive themed paintings. Meanwhile, *Kidult*<sup>2</sup>, a innovative word coined by a British newspaper in 1985, started to become an more and more frequent element of art works at the beginning of the 21st century.

According to Huang Xiaoyan, Lin Hairong's oil painting has its unique quality as well. They look quietly elegant, like the ruins of a magnificent castle flowing through history. In other words, they look cool. However, we can see the glamorous worldly dream beneath all the simplicity and indifference. This is actually a traditional contrast and metaphor in Chinese art works, because a hermit choose to live out of the bustling world only because he has been through all the prosperities and vanities, or maybe because simplicity is the sublime of all the complexity. That explains why ancient Chinese poet would write verses like "Swallows that skimmed by painted eaves in bygone days, are dipping now among the humble homes doorways". A Chinese proverb says: "Ruling a large nation is like cooking a small delicacy." Similarly, we suppose, if we observe small thing of our life real carefully, we may actually be able to see a world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wild flower.



Lin Hairong *Oriental Floral Rug* Oil on Canvas  
180x200cm 2012



Lin Hairong *Billiards* Oil on Canvas  
140x160cm 2012

Summarizing her up-coming exhibition, Lin Hairong quotes Henri Matisse, a great representative artist of the Modernism. "It is my dream to create an art which is filled with balance, purity and calmness, freed from a subject matter that is disconcerting or too attention-seeking. In my paintings, I wish to create a spiritual remedy, similar to a comfortable armchair which provides rest from physical expectation for the spiritually working, the businessman as well as the artist." said Henri Matisse.

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1. Superflat is a postmodern art movement, founded by the artist Takashi Murakami, which is influenced by manga and anime. It is also one of the most important 21st century art movement in the world.

2. The kidult is a portmanteau of kid and adult. A kidult is a "grown-up" person who enjoys being a part of youth culture and doing things that are usually thought as more suitable for children. The term first appeared in The New York Times on August 11, 1985 in an article by Peter Martin.

### **Longmen Art Projects**

Cocktail Reception: June 9, 2012 3:00 – 6:00pm

Exhibition: June 9 – August 31, 2012 10:00am – 6:30pm

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