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***RISING DRAGON: CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PHOTOGRAPHY***  
**OPENS AT THE KATONAH MUSEUM OF ART MARCH 25**

*(Katonah, NY)* In celebration of the Chinese Year of the Dragon, the Katonah Museum of Art presents *Rising Dragon: Contemporary Chinese Photography*, an exhibition of work created by Chinese artists in China since 2000, the last Year of the Dragon. Curated by Miles Barth, many of the 80 works in *Rising Dragon* have never been seen in the United States. The exhibition will be on view from Sunday, March 25 through September 2, 2012. The Katonah Museum of Art is located at 134 Jay Street (Route 22) in Katonah, NY. For more information, visit [www.katonahmuseum.org](http://www.katonahmuseum.org) or call (914) 232-9555.

*Rising Dragon* offers an overview of the photographic work that is being done in China today. “I see it as organized chaos,” says Barth. “It’s like China itself; a mass of humanity going in every direction at the speed of light. The artists are responding to every aspect of society, everything they see and live, the good, the bad and the ugly.” Subject matter includes landscapes, portraits, architecture, and images that document daily life, ranging from the rapid urbanization of the country that has led to the displacement of families and the disappearance of place to the environment and the opening of the information age through the Internet.. Also included are photographic tableaux that reference ancient and contemporary Chinese culture including religion, politics, sexual identity, and the radically changing attitudes towards these societal pillars. “In many ways I feel that through their work the artists are trying to regain something of the ancient history that the Communist government tried to wipe out during the Cultural Revolution,” Barth concluded.

Among the photographers represented in *Rising Dragon: Contemporary Chinese Photography* are: Liyu + Liubo, Muge, O Zhang, Qui Zhijie, Rong Rong, Sun Ji, Tian Taiquan, Zhang Huan, and Zhang Xiao.

“*Rising Dragon* is a perfect portal to experience Chinese photography over the past 10 years, and offers a wide range of public programs focusing on the broader Chinese culture,” said Neil Watson, Executive Director of the Katonah Museum of Art. “The blending of the exhibition with programs such as Chinese Culture Family Day and a lecture by Nicholas Platt create a rich tapestry for our visitors to experience.”

### **In the Project Gallery**

#### ***Xu Bing: Square Word Calligraphy***

March 25 – June 10

Long interested in written languages, artist Xu Bing has devised a unique method to write English words that resemble Chinese characters. Using his Square Word Calligraphy, Bing transcribes poems by Robert Frost and the 8<sup>th</sup>-century Tang Dynasty poet Wang Wei, as well as Bob Dylan lyrics and children's nursery rhymes. Visitors may initially perceive the large, multi-paneled works as written in traditional Chinese, but will delight to discover their ability to "decode" the distinctive text. Bing's hybrid calligraphy marries art from two diverse cultures.

### **In the Learning Center**

#### ***The Art of Grace Lin***

Bold, bright, and bursting with color, Grace Lin's picture books offer insight into Chinese culture and folklore. Her charming depictions of Chinese and Chinese-American family life will delight young viewers and spark conversations about cultural celebrations and enduring traditions. Original works from several of Lin's popular children's books are on display, including *Dim Sum for Everyone!*, *Thanking the Moon*, and *Fortune Cookie Fortunes*. Meet Grace Lin, via Skype, on Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 pm.

### **In The Sculpture Garden and South Lawn**

June 5, 2011 – May 2012

#### ***Joseph Wheelwright: Tree Figures***

New England artist Joseph Wheelwright's haunting tree figures invite a dialogue between the natural and the manmade. Ranging up to 27 feet tall, these fantastic, anthropomorphic sculptures were created from trees on Wheelwright's land in Vermont. Turned upside down, bifurcated trunks become legs, and roots are transformed into heads and arms.

### **General Information**

The Katonah Museum of Art is located at 134 Jay Street (Route 22) in Katonah, NY. For information call 914-232-9555 or visit [www.katonahmuseum.org](http://www.katonahmuseum.org)

### **Museum Hours**

Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm, Closed Monday.

Admission: \$7 general, \$5 for seniors and students; members and children under 12 free. Tuesday through Friday, 10am-noon, free.

### **Free Docent-Led Guided Tours**

Tuesday through Saturday, 2:30 pm. Tours are free with admission to the Museum

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