

**Cheryll Leo-Gwin**

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***Recommendation for Lu Yansheng:***

I am a retired Arts Administrator from Bellevue College where I was the Director of the Art-Zones program for over a decade. I also served two terms as a Commissioner on the Washington State Arts Commission; and two terms on the King County Arts Commission. I am also a practicing studio artist with years of teaching art in higher education. The institutions where I taught art include the University of Washington, California State University Long Beach, and North Seattle Community College. My work is found in public and private collections including but not limited to Washington State, City of Redmond, King County, and Seattle's Metro.

I have visited China at least once a year since 1999 where I visited artists in universities, artist studios, and galleries. I have also been collecting stories of people who lived during the Cultural Revolution during their teen years. During my visits, on many occasions, I had the honor of meeting Professor Lu Yansheng in his studio, in his home, and in galleries. Professor Lu and his sister, Lu Shuangqin both allowed me to interview them about their histories as young teens during the revolution, and discovered their role in hosting the underground salons in their home for the pre-Misty Poets. Professor Lu's history coupled with his extensive body of paintings so impressed me that I felt compelled to encourage him to take his work abroad. Now with the help of the Curator, Barbara Jirsa, at Sammamish City Hall in Sammamish WA, an exhibition of Professor Lu's work along with 3 other Asian artists will be presented July 8 through September 30, 2013.

Mr. Lu's work with color and abstraction coupled with a deep sense of traditional Chinese heritage creates a spectacular meld of history and contemporary imagery. Lu's work and lecture during the exhibition will provide the American audience a peek into the human condition during the Cultural Revolution, and at the same time view contemporary Chinese painting.

Professor Lu's participation in this cultural exchange will have a profound effect upon the American audience. The City of Sammamish will plan several events around the exhibition to include lectures, panel discussions, and video documentation. The video will be shared with other institutions and organization as well as the King County Library System.

While in America, Professor Lu will have a chance to meet important and influential fine artists such as Patti Warashina (ceramics), Gene Gentry McMahon (painter/printmaker), Fay Jones (painter), and Peter Reiquam (public artist). He will also have conversations with Jim Kelly (Exec. Dir. King County 4Culture); Kris Tucker (Executive Director of Washington State Arts Commission); and Amy McBride (Executive Director, Tacoma Arts Commission). I am also honored to be able to spend time with him working in my studio exchanging ideas and information about our art, our history, and our passion for painting. His exchange in America will surely open the door for him to new ideas and new friends, resulting in new directions for his work.

Sincerely,  
Cheryll Leo-Gwin