

GALLERY CONTACTS:

LISSA CRAMER
Exhibitions Coordinator
lissa.cramer@tufts.edu
617.627.3088DINA DEITSCH
Director
dina.deitsch@tufts.edu
617.627.0420

Yuan Yunsheng: Chinese Myth, Folklore & History

September 12 - December 3, 2017

MEDFORD, MA - The Tufts University Art Gallery at the Shirley and Alex Aidekman Arts Center proudly presents *Yuan Yunsheng: Chinese Myth, Folklore & History*, from September 12 through December 3, 2017. This exhibition showcases work by Yuan Yunsheng from the early 1980s, which includes the 72-foot mural commissioned for Tufts University in 1983. A public opening reception will take place on September 14 at 5:00 pm in the Remis Sculpture Court.

In the winter of 1983, artist Yuan Yunsheng (b. 1937) came to the United States as an artist-in-residence at Tufts University. During his six-month stay, Yuan created the six-panel mural *Two Ancient Chinese Tales—Blue + Red + Yellow = White?*. The painting cycle revolves around a mythological narrative that is critical of the socio-political upheavals experienced in the People's Republic of China under Chairman Mao Zedong (in power from 1945-76).

This mural is one of Yuan's pivotal achievements outside of his native China, where he is renowned as a painter and teacher. Whereas the mural was originally designed for the university's former Wessell Library, it has been on view in only fragmentary states since 1994, most recently at Tisch Library. Tufts University Art Gallery is pleased to present the mural in its entirety, newly restored, and in its original orientation for the first time in over 20 years. This exhibition also includes a selection of related paintings by Yuan from the same time period.

Special thanks to Joan Lebold Cohen, Elizabeth Ahn Toupin, Dean Emerita, and Yuan Zou for their contributions to the preservation, display, and interpretation of *Two Ancient Chinese Tales - Blue + Red + Yellow = White?*.

Public Programming includes:

Nexus Fusion Ensemble Concert

Sunday, September 24, 2017

2:00pm

Nexus Fusion Ensemble is a collective of Boston musicians committed to cross-cultural dialogue and artistic innovation comprised of guzheng, voice, piano/percussion, and cello.

The Mural as Subversive Act: Yuan Yunsheng in Context

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

4:30-6:00pm

An interdisciplinary conversation about the complexity of Yuan Yunsheng's *Two Ancient Chinese Tales—Blue + Red + Yellow = White?* with panelists Ethan Murrow, Michael Beckley, Nancy Berliner, Ethan Cohen, and Julia Murray.

To learn more about this exhibition and events, please visit <http://artgallery.tufts.edu/>



Yuan Yunsheng, *Untitled*. Ink on paper mounted on brocade. Gift of Yuan Yunsheng, Smith College of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts.

Also on view for Fall 2017

Violence Transformed: Under Siege

September 2017 | Slater Concourse Gallery

Violence Transformed is an annual series of visual and performing arts events that celebrate the power of art to confront, challenge and mediate violence. This exhibition, *Under Siege*, examines the role of the artist as activist and documentarian and features the work of faculty and alumni of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts.



Jeannie Simms, *Lesbos cynotypes*, 2016. Cotton, ripstop nylon. Courtesy of the artist.

Wen-ti Tsen: One Artist/Several Paths

October–November 2017 | Slater Concourse and Remis Sculpture Court



Wen-ti Tsen created the large-scale sculptures of *Home Town* to bring attention to the intrusive threat of development and gentrification that displaces the Chinatown community. These sculptures will be on view in the Remis Sculpture Court. Thanks to the Nat and Martha Knaster Visiting Artist grant, Wen-ti will work with the Center for the Humanities at Tufts, and the consortium of programs in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora as the Artist in Residence for Fall 2017. Wen-ti will exhibit his large-scale mural project *Pilgrim Father / Illegal Son*, in the Slater Concourse.

Wen-ti Tsen pictured with an archival cut-out from his *Home Town* series.

How to Draw a Lion

December 2017 | Slater Concourse Gallery

How to Draw a Lion is an art education program created by SMFA Alum John Platt, to bring hope and raise funds for orphaned children in East Africa. The Small Things is an organization founded by Tufts Alumna Bekka Ross Russell which works to build families and futures for orphaned and vulnerable children in Tanzania.



Participant of The Small Things program in Tanzania.

The Tufts University Art Gallery is a recognized player in the active contemporary art scene in the Boston metropolitan area and an unparalleled campus resource for fostering visual literacy and critical thinking skills. The Gallery's mission is to animate the intellectual life of the greater university community through exhibitions and programs that explore new, global perspectives on art and art discourse.

Hours:

Academic Year Hours (September-May)
Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm and Thursdays until 8pm

Gallery Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Admission:

All exhibitions and related programming are free, open to the public, and fully accessible.
Suggested donation: \$3