

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Fine Art presents

Burmese Contemporary Art - **Opus One Shanghai** Artist Min Wae Aung, Chan Aye and Tin Win

Opening Reception: Saturday 24th March, 2007 Time: 2-5:00pm, the principal artist will be present



Exhibition: Saturday, 24th March through Sunday, 1st April, 2007

Shown for the first time in China, this stunning collection of 35 paintings showcases three leading artists from Myanmar (Burma)

Asia Fine Art, Hong Kong, in collaboration with **Wan Fung Art Gallery**, Shanghai is pleased to present “**Burmese Contemporary Art – Opus One Shanghai**”. The exhibition opens with a reception Saturday, 24th March from 2-5:00pm and continues until Sunday, 1st April, 2007.

The art from this beautiful country of 55 million people is not popularly known. Asia Fine Art has held exhibitions of Burmese art in Hong Kong during the last two years but there have been few full-scale exhibitions outside Myanmar. Burmese art is one of the world's best-kept art secrets – it has a purity and spirituality that is rarely found in the art of an emerging nation. Portrayal of conflict is often the main focus but this is not the case with Myanmar art where Buddhism and harmony go hand in hand.

Opus One Shanghai is the first large public exhibition in Shanghai showing the works of three talented and established leading Burmese artists, **Min Wae Aung, Tin Win & Chan Aye** from Yangon. Three artists, three contrasting styles - vibrant monks in bright coloured flowing robes, minority people painted in great detail on textured paneled backgrounds and pleasing to the eye abstract paintings in delicate and sympathetic colours. The subjects are taken from Myanmar's rich cultural and religious heritage and the country's unspoiled beauty.

Venue: Wan Fung Art Gallery, Bibliotheca Zi-Ka-Wei, 80 Cao Xi Road North, Xu Jia Hui, Shanghai

Gallery Hours: daily 9:30am to 5.00pm

Website: www.asia-fineart.com

Tel: Hong Kong : (852) 2522-0405; Shanghai : (86-21) 6487 4072 extension 107

Gallery Background

Wan Fung Art Gallery, with seven galleries, is the most established and successful gallery specializing in Chinese contemporary art. With three galleries in Beijing, two in Guangdong, one in Shanghai, it has its headquarters in Hong Kong.

Established in 1986. The following year it embarked on a long-term commitment to the exposure of Chinese art and has to date, held more than 600 exhibitions representing many renowned contemporary Chinese master artists.

Asia Fine Art was established in 2004. The gallery has a changing programme of exhibitions at its Sik On Street gallery showing artworks from Vietnam, Burma & China, particularly watercolours and lacquer paintings.

Situated in a quiet pedestrianized street off Queen's Road East, the gallery exhibits one of Hong Kong's most extensive collections of Asian art by up-and-coming emerging artists. A comprehensive collection of paintings and sculptures by some 60 artists are shown on the website www.asia-fineart.com

Artist Background

Min Wae Aung

Min Wae Aung was born in Danubyu, Burma, 1960. He studied traditional landscape and portrait painting at the State School of Fine Art in Rangoon. His work has met with great success since the mid 90's and MWA is now the most recognized Burmese painter. A success confirmed by each exhibition held worldwide.

MWA's compositions often represent Buddhist monks or nuns painted on elaborate and striking golden backgrounds. Faces are rarely shown, symbolizing the Buddhist ideal of renouncement to the world, resulting in a deep feeling of serenity and inner peace. MWA has captured the very essence of "Burmese-ness"; its spiritual and magical dimension (iconic characters perpetuating age-old traditions) but also the beauty and joy of daily life in Myanmar (the morning rounds to collect alms, the hot sun, the energy of youth...)

The treatment of colours, mostly gold, black and white, with a touch of pink or red, and the rendering of the light through sharply contrasted hues of white and black are highly innovative and create a timeless and almost surreal impression.

Min Wae Aung never forces his views on us; he is offering us a moment in each work to contemplate our own condition. The animated or anxious viewer standing before one of his works soon finds a curious calmness.

Chan Aye

Born in 1954 in Mandalay, Myanmar, Chan Aye had no formal art training.

In 1970 he suffered a serious illness from which it took several years to fully recover. He began what he called 'my training years' in 1976-77, professionally creating both paintings and sculptures.

His works have a certain deep mystical twist, sometimes humorous; others have a fatalistic or even philosophical touch.

He only paints for himself, to appease his inner feelings, not to create popular fast selling canvases. Now in his 50's, he has mellowed somewhat but he is still the deep thinker who paints with a special skill that allows him to create wonderfully balanced works with a combination of colours which pleasingly blend to the eye. His paintings are never harsh or aggressive.

Tin Win

Born in 1951 in Minbu, Central Myanmar

1970, Graduated from the State School of Fine Arts (Mandalay)

Tin Win the artist has a passion for ancient Asian heritage and is also an antique collector. He likes placing Buddha images or pictures of ancient carvings from his collection into the paintings he creates. This makes for a contrast between the timelessness of these images and the modern background showing the ancient things in a non-traditional way.

End

For more information and visuals, please contact **Sidney Cowell** or **Catherine Lam** at Asia Fine Art. 12 Sik On Street, 99 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

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