



New York, Shanghai
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For Immediate Release

Connections: Nature

Artists: Chul Soon Lim, Cui Fei, Eung Ho Park, Jae Hi Ahn, Li Shan, Ming Fay, Seung Lee and Zheng Lianjie.

Curator: David Rong.

Crossing Art Gallery

Press preview: Thursday June 3, 2:00 pm

Opening Reception: Friday June 4, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Exhibition Dates: Friday June 4– Sunday July 11, 2010

Hillwood Art Museum

Long Island University, 720 Northern Boulevard, Great Neck, NY 11021

Opening Reception: Saturday June 5, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Exhibition Dates: Saturday June 5 – Saturday July 10, 2010

Crossing Art is pleased to announce the opening of *Connections: Nature* a two venue group exhibition featuring eight artists whose works are informed by the relationships and interactions of humanity with the natural world. The exhibition is split into two parts to be on view simultaneously. *Connections: Nature* will also open at Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University on June 5 and be on view until July 10, 2010.

Curatorial Statement: "Nature, originating from the Latin word Natura, was originally defined by the inherent essence of the growth and evolution of plants, animals, and humanity. Aristotle said, "Natural things are the foundation of the existence of the world." Today, nature is synonymous with a reference to the Natural World, used to summarize the existence of all things. With the rise of the Western Industrial Revolution, humans, originally a part of nature began separating themselves from it. With this divorce, humans and nature were no longer defined as one but considered two different entities. While humans began conquering nature, changing nature to fit its own political and social needs, a new definition of nature emerged known as "Humanized Nature". However, while humans are celebrating the victories of conquering nature, the punishment from nature has begun to take place through its destruction, such as the recent offshore oil leakage in the Gulf of Mexico.

In the "Tao Te Ching", Lao-tzu explains that Tao is Nature, "the Tao produced One; One produced Two; Two produced Three; Three produced All things." Nature is the kernel of the Universe, and hence the principle of our life. According to the "Tao Te Ching", "things are naturally developing, governing by doing nothing" and "things are in harmony with nature, doing and creating nothing, governed by themselves" are the core ideas of Taoism, which has outlined guiding principles of the universe and life in opposition to Confucianism. These unique principles of the universe, first developed in China, can be applied to current World Ecosystem Theories. The ecosystem is a community composed of interdependent parts and considers humans and nature equal. As equals, humans must not only respect other partners in the community, but the community as a whole. In this community, human actions can only be justified when it is helpful for protecting the harmony, stability and beauty of the community.

Through the artworks in Connections: Nature, artists express their thoughts to nature, life, and pay careful attention to the relationship between "humans and nature". The ideas conceived of in the exhibition are not only an ideal pursuit from our ancestors, but also a necessary requirement for humanities future. As the ancient Chinese ideologist Lao Zi said, "Earth rules human beings, Sky rules earth, Tao rules Sky, and in the end, Nature rules Tao."

For additional information please contact Jennifer Junkermeier at 212-359-4333 or Jennifer@crossingart.com.