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## **Wei Kang: The Depth of Black**

**Press preview: Wednesday September 17, 2008 2:00pm**

**Opening reception: Saturday September 20, 2008 3:00 - 6:00pm**

**Exhibition Dates: September 13 to November 22, 2008**

**(NEW YORK, NY- September, 2008) In his New York debut, Crossing Art in conjunction with Lu Quan of the Shanghai Arts Museum, present *Wei Kang: The Depth of Black*. Wei Kang, based in Shanghai and trained in classical oil painting, is notorious for his innovations on the paintbrush and the invention of the rubber pen that are now produced in six sizes. The rubber pen has provided Wei a tool to leave a unique mark, not only in his paintings but, on generations of artists and the world.**

Bright colors emerge from dark milieus that examine the cultural and art historical connotations of the color black, the color of ink used in traditional Chinese paintings. *The Depth of Black* is a retrospect of paintings uncovering the wide array of painting studies by Wei Kang. The exhibition is fixed by the *Black Series* that explores a variety of different themes painted in black motifs lightly accented by hints color and thick surfaces. He explores the intimate relationships of mother and children in *Mother and Son Series*, apparition-like portraits of characters in *Head Series* and spirituality through the lohans and Buddhism in *18 Arahats*. Also on view, in contrast to the dark and mysterious *Black Series* are Wei's colorful landscapes of urban scenes that capture the fast-moving and ever-growing city of Shanghai.

Wei's paintings are even more distinctive due to the instrument that he uses to paint, the rubber pen. In his catalogue essay *Wei Kang: Pleasures of the (Rubber) Pen*, Jonathan Goodman stipulates that, "The results of this technical invention dominate Wei's exquisite style, especially in his abstractions which are resonant with color. The jewel-like brilliance of his hues consequently captures the attention of his audience".

***Wei Kang: The Depth of Black* is curated by Lu Quan in conjunction with Crossing Art. Lu Quan is a Senior Researcher and Curator at Shanghai Art Museum, China.**