

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Toronto, ON** - XEXE Gallery is honoured to present *Mandolin Landscapes*, an exhibition of recent paintings by Wenyun Hua. This exhibition is Hua's first since immigrating to Toronto from China, where she exhibited in numerous galleries, as well as obtained a BFA in Fine Art and a MFA in Chinese Painting from the prestigious Nanjing Normal University. *Mandolin Landscapes* is inspired by music and nature. The mandolin is a Chinese pear shaped stringed musical instrument. The root 'Lin' means forest or landscape with trees. "My personal translation of mandolin is meditation landscape, filled with spiritual travel and feelings evoked from music."

Spiritually is an integral part of Hua's work. "I always use Chinese watercolour because it originates from nature. Human, Heaven and Earth should be one, according to traditional Chinese philosophy, the three combined to reach a deep balance. This theory fuels the underlining Asian spirituality in my artwork." Her approach to painting can be categorized in 3 parts. "My first step is to draw from my mind. Accompanied by classical music, I begin by preparing my supplies - watercolours, ink, rice paper and Chinese brushes. I commence with ink, outlining the initial shape from my emotions; this could take the form of lines, brush strokes or a wash. I have no preconceived ideas of what I must draw; everything naturally flows from my brushes and the music."

Next, Hua paints with watercolours, using a variety of hues combining a traditionally Eastern palette with that found more often in North America. "White was incorporated into my painting after I came to Canada. Through my observation of the Canadian scenery, I found there is spirituality in a white line – the spirit of landscape in Canada regardless of the season, from snow in Collingwood, autumn in Mount Pleasant, to the wild green in a country roadside field." Hua finishes her pieces by fixing a sheet of rice paper to the back of the painting adding strength, and by applying a coating to the surface which dramatically reveals the depth in the layers of paint not visible previously.

*Mandolin Landscapes* reflects Hua's astounding courage and success in her new home both as an artist and art teacher. This series masterfully combines many of Hua's life experiences resulting in a uniquely distinct voice. "To me, it has never been important whether a painting is classic or modern, Eastern or Western. I rather pay attention to what is common in those different cultures, and this is primarily the human creature and its states of existence...My rich fine art knowledge and experience provide me with a variety of techniques in my creative process regardless if they are from a Western or Eastern tradition. With this combination, I become very free and relaxed in this new style. No one can change or bind my ideas and feelings to fit a kind of art principle."

Wenyun Hua's work can be found in collections throughout North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

WHAT: Wenyun Hua  
***Mandolin Landscapes***

WHEN: August 19 – September 19, 2004  
Opening Reception – Thursday, August 19, 2004, 6 – 9 pm

WHERE: **XEXE Gallery**  
624 Richmond St. W. (at Bathurst St.)  
416-646-2706  
[www.xexegallery.com](http://www.xexegallery.com)  
contact: Shirley Ann Spiteri

XEXE (she'she) n. devotion to a diverse representation of fine art. Located in the Queen West Gallery District, XEXE Gallery exhibits a truly diverse collection of contemporary fine art. Committed to representing artists as varied as the mediums in which their work is created, XEXE Gallery has provided a refreshing addition to the Toronto art scene.