

**The List Gallery hosts *Ying Li, A Survey*,
January 21-February 28, 2010**

**and announces the selection of Ying Li
as the 2010 Donald Jay Gordon Visiting Artist**



The List Gallery and the Department of Art, Swarthmore College are pleased to announce that Ying Li has been selected as the 2010 Donald Jay Gordon Visiting Artist and Lecturer. The List Gallery will host *Ying Li: A Survey*, January 21-February 28, 2010, featuring approximately 33 paintings and drawings ranging from Li's early career in China to the present, with an emphasis on her recent landscape paintings and charcoal portraits. The exhibition is accompanied by a color catalog with an essay by Faye Hirsch, senior editor at *Art in America*.

The artist will lecture about her work on January 28, 4:30 p.m. in the Lang Performing Arts Center Cinema. The List Gallery reception will immediately follow, 5:30-7:00 p.m. All events are free and open to the public.

Born in 1951 in Beijing, China, Li came of age during the so-called "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution" (1965-77), during which she endured the internment of her father in "re-education camps." Subsequently, she was sent to poor farm areas in Anhui province to do hard labor for five years. As the severity of repression eased in the 1970's and schools re-opened, Li entered Anhui Teacher's University, Wuhu, Anhui, China to study oil painting. One of the earliest works on exhibit, American Journalist Agnes Smedley in Southern

Anhui (1980) demonstrates both the propagandistic imagery and socialist realist style required of Chinese artists and Li's growing fascination with Western culture.

In 1983 Li moved to the United States, where she became a U.S. citizen. She studied at Parsons School of Design and embraced the gestural freedom and potential she identified in the art of Willem de Kooning and other abstract expressionists. She sought an art in which imagery and the language of painting are not predetermined, but discovered through a long process of direct observation, revision, and responsiveness to her media. Her bold use of color and experimental, gestural brushwork convey an intense mood and a passionate, almost obsessive response to her subjects.

As Faye Hirsch describes in her catalog essay, Li's passionate brushwork retains an integral connection to her direct observation of specific landscapes, many of which she studied at length during various art residencies, where each site imparted a distinctive space and structure to her paintings. Li's residencies have included extended stays at St. Mary's College, Maryland; the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation; Cranberry Island, Maine; Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, N.Y.; Chehi Residency, Fogo Island, Newfoundland; the International School of Art, Montecastello di Vibio, Italy; and the Fundación Valparaíso, Mojácar, Spain.

Li has exhibited her work internationally including at ISA Gallery, Montecastello di Vibio, Italy; The Museum of Rochefort-en-Terre, Brittany, France, and the National Gallery of Fine Art, Beijing, China. She has mounted twenty-eight solo exhibitions of her work including at Lohin Geduld Gallery, N.Y., where she is currently represented. Her solo exhibitions have also taken place at the Painting Center, N.Y., and Elizabeth Harris Gallery, N.Y. She has won awards and residencies from the Valparaíso Foundation, the National Academy of Design, N.Y., the Wolf Kahn and Emily Mason Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Aspen Institute, to name just a few.

Ying Li is Professor of Fine Arts at Haverford College and has been a visiting artist and lecturer at dozens of institutions including The National Academy Museum School, N.Y., Maryland Institute College of Art, Dartmouth College, University of Pennsylvania and Parsons School of Design, N.Y.. Her work is included in major collections including The Library of Congress, the National Academy Museum, N. Y., Washington State Arts Council, and PSA Art Showcase IX, N.Y.

Gallery hours: Tuesdays-Sundays, Noon-5:00 p.m.

Directions:http://www.swarthmore.edu/visitordash/visitors_content_directions.php

For more information, contact: Andrea Packard, 610.733.9771 or apackar1@swarthmore.edu