

THE SPIRIT OF BRUSH AND INK – RECENT PAINTINGS BY HE BAILI



Maple Colours, Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 58.5 x 152 cm.

CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS HONG KONG ARTIST HE BAILI'S SOLO SHOW

Hong Kong – Christie's will present **THE SPIRIT OF BRUSH AND INK – RECENT PAINTINGS BY HE BAILI**, a new solo exhibition by He Baili, Hong Kong artist and calligrapher, at the James Christie Room, Alexandra House, which will run from 4 to 27 February 2015. This exhibition features recent works by He Baili, which focus on five themes: *Dawning of Hope*, *Elegance of Nature*, *Glamour of Autumn*, *Boats in Leisure* and *Delights of Nature*.

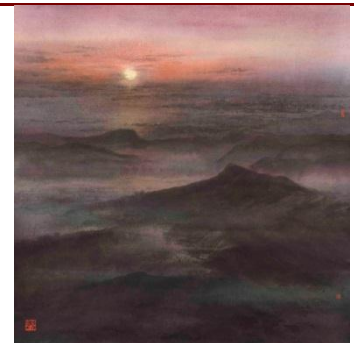
Born in Guangzhou in 1945, He Baili was educated in Hong Kong and studied Chinese paintings of the Lingnan School. At the age of 21, he held his first solo exhibition to critical acclaim. After emigrating to North America in 1984, he was inspired by both Romantic and Impressionist paintings. An ingenious blend of techniques, such as splashed ink, broken ink, piled ink, splashed colour and mixed-colour wash, has allowed He to arrive at a unique style, which breaks through the conventions.

DAWNING OF HOPE



Dawning of Hope I
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink
and colour on paper
89 x 90 cm.

In recent years, He Baili has been drawn to painting landscapes featuring rays of morning light in recent years. The inspiration came from a trip he made to the Taihang Mountains in northern China, where the height of the mountains contrasts sharply with the landscape of the south. Sunrise symbolises renewal and hope for the artist. He captures the sublimity of nature in awe-inspiring scenes of the sunrise by using broad and lyrical brushstrokes.



Dawning of Hope II
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink
and colour on paper
95.2 x 94.2 cm.

ELEGANCE OF NATURE



Waterfall in Emerald Valley, Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 98 x 192 cm.

Defined by calligraphic brushstrokes in conjunction with the spontaneous splash-ink technique, He Baili's landscapes present dynamic scenes of nature, filled with energy, rhythm and beauty.

GLAMOUR OF AUTUMN

The maple tree fascinated He Baili during his stay in Canada, especially when maple leaves reached their finest shades of red. In classical Chinese literature, the falling maple leaf sets the background for scenes of parting and symbolises longing, which adds emotional depth to natural beauty of nature.



Left: *Autumn in the Valley, Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 71.8 x 71.2 cm. (Glamour of Autumn)*

Middle: *Boats in Leisure III, Scroll, mounted and framed, ink on paper, 27.5 x 35 cm. (Boats in Leisure)*

Right: *Peony I, Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 58.5 x 47 cm. (Delights of Nature)*

BOATS IN LEISURE

Small fishing boats are etched on childhood memory for many people. After He Baili emigrated overseas, these boats became not only his vessels of memory but also expressions of longing. As such light boats repeatedly appear in He's paintings over the decades, they witness the artist's evolving artistic development. From the early naturalistic sketches to the abstract forms that emerged in the 1970s, He has captured the boats with simple brushwork and renewed vigour in the 2000s, creating this series which pays homage to his hometown.

DELIGHTS OF NATURE

During He Baili's stay in Canada, the artist planted peonies in his garden and often painted them in the open air as they blossomed and fell. The beauty of the peony impressed He, who featured flowers, fruits and food in his still life often in a style typical of Song painting.

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Delights of Nature, A set of four scrolls, mounted and framed, ink and colour on silk, Each scroll measures 16 x 21 cm.

EXHIBITION

4 to 27 February

Monday to Friday – 10:00 to 17:30

(Closed on 17 to 20 February)

Venue: James Christie Room, 22/F Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road, Central, Hong Kong

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