

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Press Contact: Klare Scarborough
215.951.1221 scarborough@lasalle.edu

PHILADELPHIA (May 29, 2014)—La Salle University Art Museum is proud to present the exhibition ***Hung Liu: Prints and Tapestries*** on view September 17–December 5, 2014.

One of the preeminent Chinese artists working in the United States, world-renowned artist Hung Liu has received numerous prestigious awards and accolades including two National Endowment for the Arts Painting Fellowships. She has exhibited her work widely both nationally and internationally. This will be her first exhibition in Philadelphia.

Born in Changchun, China, in 1948, one year before the founding of the People's Republic of China, Liu came of age during the Mao's Cultural Revolution. As a young woman, Liu was sent to the countryside to be "reeducated" through farm work. At that time, many intellectuals were sent to such camps with the idea that the experience would make them less bourgeois and more in touch with the proletariat. Liu later trained and taught in the officially-sanctioned Socialist Realist art style at the Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing.

Liu was one of the first artists allowed to leave Communist China to study in the United States. She arrived in 1984 to pursue her MFA at the University of California, San Diego and has lived in the United States ever since. During her first return visit to China in 1991, Liu became interested in historical photographs depicting pre-revolution Chinese, which she began collecting on subsequent visits. The photographs were mainly taken by non-Chinese foreigners, showing "types," such as the laborers and fashionable women prominent in this exhibition. These images have become an integral element in Liu's imagery. Liu engages in a conversation with pre-revolution history that was largely lost or suppressed. With the photographic subjects, she creates "mythic figures." Her drip and wash painting techniques obscure, break down, and work against the artist's Socialist Realist training in Maoist China. Liu utilizes similar aesthetics in her prints and tapestries. Liu writes that she seeks to "preserve and destroy" the image at the same time.

This exhibition features Hung Liu's aquatint etchings, mixed media woodcuts, lithographs, lithographs with collage, and tapestries generously lent by the following presses: Magnolia Editions, Paulson Bott Press, Shark's Ink, and Tamarind Institute.

Hung Liu will present an artist's talk at 4 p.m. on September 17, 2014. An opening reception will immediately follow from 5 to 7 p.m.

On November 6, 2014, 1-2 p.m., La Salle University Professor Of History Charles Desnoyers, PH.D., will present a lecture, "History as a Verb: Dissolution, Memory, and the (Re)Education of Hung Liu."

Supporters and co-sponsors of the exhibition and related programs include the Philadelphia Cultural Fund; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; the Brother Daniel Burke Endowment Fund for Education; La Salle University's Departments of Fine Arts and History, the Multicultural and International Center, the Diplomats in Residence Program and the Concert and Lecture Series.

The La Salle University Art Museum is located on the lower level of Olney Hall on the campus of La Salle University at 19th Street and Olney Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free, though donations are accepted. Please call to schedule group visits. Special tours can be arranged. For further information call 215.951.1221 or visit the website at <http://www.lasalle.edu/museum/>.