



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS

For Immediate Release

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Artist Tom Huang exhibits furniture, fiber arts, and sculpture that illustrates connections between East and West

In a Collective Spirit: Sculpture Works and Furniture on view May 20 - September 7, 2008 in DCCA's Dupont I Gallery

Wilmington, Del. – 25 April 2008 - Trained as an architect and furniture designer, artist Tom Huang attempts to bridge the gap between studio furniture, contemporary fiber arts, and sculpture in his work. He utilizes his skills from both disciplines to create individual furniture objects and sculptural installations. In the exhibition, *In a Collective Spirit: Sculpture Works and Furniture*, on display at the DCCA from May 20 through September 7, 2008, Huang presents both furniture and sculpture as featured works. The DCCA will host a reception for the artist on June 6, 2008 at 7p.m. as part of Wilmington's Art on the Town Loop. The artist will present a free bamboo demonstration and lecture. The programming for the exhibition is sponsored, in part, by a generous contribution by the Hanlin Chinese Cultural Association.

Huang is very interested in the relationship between the East and West and he employs traditional and contemporary techniques and materials to express this point of view. Huang explains, "I hope to better understand the global condition of cultural mixing and reconciliation by employing weaving and binding as a metaphor. I combine both traditional and non-traditional techniques and materials."

Huang's installation, *Coolies*, demonstrates the artist's awareness of history and his respect for the labor of Chinese immigrants who built the Central Pacific Railroad that joined the Transcontinental Railway and tied together the growing United States. "Coolies," originally a non-pejorative term for a laborer who usually carried a bamboo pole, eventually became a negative term under Colonialism. Huang creates an exceptionally beautiful installation, utilizing bamboo and many traditional weaving techniques, to pay homage to the countless "coolies" who built the American railway.

Susan Isaacs, Adjunct Curator at the DCCA says of Huang, "Tom Huang is a compelling and dynamic young artist who brings his training as an architect and furniture designer to his work. I find his interest in the relationship between the East and West, which we see through his combination of traditional and non-traditional techniques and materials, to be fascinating and extremely relevant in a global economy where cultures meet on a daily basis."

The public is invited to meet Tom Huang on June 6, 2008 at 7 p.m. for a free bamboo demonstration and lecture. Huang will demonstrate the traditional