



Wenlan Hu Frost with Selected Paintings from the *Chinese Calligraphy 2.0 – The Love Character Abstract Symbolism Series*

Photograph by Daniel Allen Frost

Press Release

Source: The Butler Institute of American Art

The Butler Institute of American Art Premieres Wenlan Hu Frost's First Solo Exhibition Entitled *Chinese Calligraphy 2.0 – The Love Character Abstract Symbolism Series*

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YOUNGSTOWN, January 9, 2008 – The Butler Institute of American Art will premiere a solo exhibition for Wenlan Hu Frost from February 14th to March 2nd, 2008 in Youngstown, Ohio. The exhibition *Chinese Calligraphy 2.0 – The Love Character Abstract Symbolism Series* will feature 40 acrylic paintings (with a measurement of 48” x 48” each).

Chinese-born American artist Wenlan Hu Frost is the first artist to present the Chinese character as a symbolic abstract art form on a Western medium. She has developed an Abstract Symbolism painting style to execute her first major body of art works, which emphasizes a high visual impact to viewers while delivering a simple message with symbolic abstract images. The artist mainly focuses on the Chinese character “Love” as her motif for the series. Because the series is a product of the artist's 32 years of life and cultural

experiences in China and 17 years in the United States, it blends Chinese and Western artistic characteristics, creating a unique and distinctive artistic representation of a hybrid of traditional Chinese and modern Western cultures.

The series was conceived in December 2006 when Wenlan Hu Frost started to explore her own avant-garde artistic style. In studying modern art history, she noticed that many Western master painters were inspired by Asian art. Then she realized that the Chinese character is itself a beautiful and ancient abstract art form that was not fully appreciated by the Western world. One of the reasons is that since the creation of Chinese characters from paintings or pictographs four thousand years ago and Chinese calligraphy two thousand years ago, traditional Chinese calligraphy has been largely presented in a black ink on rice paper (or Xuan paper) format. This format has its own unique beauty, but it is not a familiar medium for the Western world.

Wenlan Hu Frost decided to become the first artist to present the Chinese character in a Western medium as a modern abstract art form. She believes that through a Western fine art medium presentation, the world could better appreciate the Chinese character's extraordinary abstract artistry and brilliance. The artist deeply believes that the Chinese character is not only a significant part of Chinese culture but also a very important part of abstract art history for the entire world. Thus, it is extremely meaningful to present this special abstract art form to the Western world in a Western fine art medium.

After systematic study, research, and planning, Wenlan Hu Frost started to paint her first series in May 2007. She completed 40 paintings by December 2007. The series, which is entitled *Chinese Calligraphy 2.0 – The Love Character Abstract Symbolism Series*, presents the Chinese character as a modern abstract art form. The artist refers to the traditional ink on paper format of Chinese calligraphy as *Chinese Calligraphy 1.0*. To keep the presentation simple and straightforward, the artist focused exclusively on the Chinese character *ai* (pronounced like “eye”), which means “Love,” as her motif for the initial 40 paintings of the series to show the ancient abstract artistry of Chinese character art in a modern Western fine art medium (acrylic on canvas).

Wenlan Hu Frost was born in Chengdu, China in 1958 and grew up in Beijing after age two. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, she spent three years in the countryside for labor reeducation following high school. She studied electrical engineering in university and worked in engineering, newspaper publishing and management consulting in China. She earned an MBA from the Sloan School at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1991 and worked as an equity research analyst on Wall Street. There she experienced the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 2001 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. The 9/11 terrorist attack damaged her home, which was only one block away from the World Trade Center. As a result, she and her young family opted to leave New York City for Houston in 2002. Wenlan Hu Frost became a citizen of the United States in 2005, fifteen years after she entered the country. Currently, she lives in Houston with her husband Daniel Allen Frost and their two young sons Daniel and David, where she and her husband run a hedge fund advisory business.

Wenlan Hu Frost's artistic path is somewhat serendipitous. As a child, she loved drawing, painting and crafts; she made her first embroidery art of Chairman Mao at age 7 during the Cultural Revolution. However, she never pursued professional art training in her youth. Years later, when her seven-year-old son was enrolled at Wang Xincheng Art School in

Houston in 2006, her deep love of art was re-awakened. In November 2006 at the age of 48, she began to study painting under the master painter Xinsheng Wang, where she studied acrylic landscape, still life, and portrait painting. In 2007 she developed her Abstract Symbolism style in the course of producing her first major series. Currently, she is continuing her art education and working on a new series of paintings.

About The Butler Institute of American Art

The Butler is known worldwide as "America's Museum" because it is the first museum in the United States dedicated exclusively to American art. The Butler Institute of American Art was established by a visionary American industrialist, philanthropist, and historian Joseph Green Butler, Jr. in Youngstown, Ohio. The original structure, dedicated in 1919, is a McKim, Mead and White architectural masterpiece listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum's mission is to preserve and collect works of art in all media created by citizens of the United States. The collection of The Butler Institute has now exceeded 20,000 individual works of art.

For more information, please visit www.butlerart.com, and www.wenlanhufrost.com. For high quality artwork images or more information about the series, please call the artist at 713-268-1619 or email at wenlan@wenlanhufrost.com.



Chinese Calligraphy 2.0 – The Love Character Abstract Symbolism Series
 Acrylic on Canvas, 48" x 48" each (Please see below for individual titles)

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Appendix: Titles of the Initial 40 Paintings in Chinese Calligraphy 2.0 – The Love Character Abstract Symbolism Series

1. *Medium Red Love on Light Yellow 1.0*
2. *Light Yellow Love on Medium Red 1.0*
3. *Light Yellow Love on Brilliant Blue 1.0*
4. *Brilliant Blue Love on Light Yellow 1.0*
5. *Light Green Love on Light Yellow 1.0*

6. *Light Yellow Love on Light Green 1.0*
7. *Fluorescent Pink Love on Black 1.0*
8. *White Love on Fluorescent Pink 1.0*
9. *White Love on Medium Yellow 1.0*
10. *Medium Yellow Love on Black 1.0*
11. *Bright Aqua Green Love on Black 1.0*
12. *White Love on Bright Aqua Green 1.0*
13. *Brilliant Purple Love on Brilliant Yellow Green 1.0*
14. *Brilliant Yellow Green Love on Brilliant Purple 1.0*
15. *Orange Love on Bright Aqua Green 1.0*
16. *Bright Aqua Green Love on Orange 1.0*
17. *Light Blue Love on Medium Magenta 1.0*
18. *Medium Magenta Love on Light Blue 1.0*
19. *Iridescent Rich Gold Love on Iridescent Rich Silver 1.0*
20. *Iridescent Rich Silver Love on Iridescent Rich Gold 1.0*
21. *The Love of God 1.0*
22. *The Love of God 2.0*
23. *The Love of America 1.0*
24. *The Love of America 2.0*
25. *The Love of The World Trade Center 1.0*
26. *The Love of The World Trade Center 2.0*
27. *The Love of Humanitarianism 1.0*
28. *The Love of Humanitarianism 2.0*
29. *The Love of Family 1.0*
30. *The Love of Family 2.0*
31. *The Love of Life 1.0*
32. *The Love of Earth 1.0*
33. *The Love of Yin and Yang 1.0*
34. *The Love of Mars And Venus 1.0*
35. *The Love of Mars 1.0*
36. *The Love of Venus 1.0*
37. *The Love of Eight Eights 1.0*
38. *The Love of Possibilities 1.0*
39. *The Love of Hotness 1.0*
40. *The Love of Coolness 1.0*