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Gong Yuebin opens Sac State’s fall art season

Noted Sacramento artist Gong Yuebin opens the season for Sacramento State’s Robert Else Gallery with new drawings called “Gong’s Ink,” starting Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Born in China in 1960, Gong grew up at the height of Mao Zedong’s Cultural Revolution. Now a Sacramento resident, Gong remembers a childhood of “hunger, worry and humiliation” but found inspiration for his art through all the adversity.

His works have been exhibited worldwide. One of his recent shows at the Crocker Art Museum included a re-creation of China’s terra cotta warriors, and he has had installations on the Sac State campus.

For this exhibit, Gong rendered ink drawings in bold and delicate strokes on paper during a four-month trip along China’s Yellow River. The images include landscapes, scenes of people performing tai chi and farmers working in the fields.

“The traditional Chinese ink technique and tai chi are the proper ways to depict the tragedy of human civilization and the world’s changes from a primitive, soft nature to a grasping, strong power,” Gong says. “We work with being, but non-being is what we use.”

“In these works, Gong captures the essence of transcendent lives and creates a spiritual retreat for himself, in contrast with his famous large-scale installation of the terra cotta warriors,” says Sacramento State Art Professor Pat Chirapravati.

The new works in the Else Gallery will be on display Sept. 3-26 with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12. Gallery hours are noon-4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.
For more information about the exhibit, call the Art Department at (916) 278-6061 or visit the department at www.al.csus.edu/art/. For media assistance, call Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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