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Collectors' Circle of Pacific Asia Museum Purchases Contemporary Chinese Artworks

June 18, 2013 – The Collectors' Circle of Pacific Asia Museum voted to purchase a contemporary Chinese work at the Annual Purchase Dinner on Thursday, June 13, 2013. It will be displayed in the newly renovated Chinese Gallery, scheduled to open this fall.

Twenty-one Collectors' Circle members, guests and Pacific Asia Museum staff were in attendance, including Interim Executive Director Margaret Leong Checca of Pasadena and longtime supporter Marcia Good of San Marino. Also in attendance were Bruce and Anne Blomstrom of San Marino, Dr. Elizabeth Short of Pasadena, Maria Low Way of Pasadena, Betsey Tyler of Pasadena, and Maiya Penberthy of Pasadena. Guests enjoyed a four-course meal catered by Perfect Equation in Pacific Asia Museum's lantern-filled conservatory as Curator Bridget Bray and Assistant Curator Yeonsoo Chee noted the significance of the four works under consideration and explained how each one would strengthen the museum's Chinese collection.

Ballots cast by the Collectors' Circle members selected *Beijing Hand Scroll 08.04.25B* (2007-2009) by Miao Xiaochun. Miao Xiaochun's respect for and delight in the revered hand scroll, *Along the River during the Qingming Festival* by the Song Dynasty painter Zhang Zeduan (1085-1145), has inspired his *Beijing Hand Scroll Series*, 2007-2009. Miao lives and works in Beijing, China, and exemplifies the continuing impact of prior centuries of Chinese art history on the most cutting-edge of contemporary artists and the fascinating conversation that results. He is known for playing with exaggerated scale and with this series creates works that frequently reach widths of close to 4 meters. This work in the series has a compositional rhythm that echoes the earlier hand scroll, while capturing a specific moment in the evolution of today's Beijing, as *hutong* are demolished to make way for new construction, migrant workers rest in the streets under propaganda posters, and alley ways are choked with cars and urban detritus.

"Pacific Asia Museum was one of the first U.S. museums to exhibit contemporary art from China with exhibitions in 1987 and 1991," said Curator Bridget Bray. "We're thrilled to add this work to our collection and share a contemporary perspective in context of the earlier works in the newly renovated Chinese gallery when it opens this fall."

Pacific Asia Museum's Collectors' Circle is an exclusive group for those interested in Asian art collecting, art conservation and the inner workings of the Asian art world. Led by the Executive Director with support from the curatorial staff, the Collectors' Circle meets at least four times per year for special events and programs. Collectors' Circle membership is open to museum members at the Plum Blossom and Associates levels.

About Pacific Asia Museum

Pacific Asia Museum is among the few institutions in the United States dedicated exclusively to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The museum's mission is to further intercultural understanding through the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Since 1971, Pacific Asia Museum has served a broad audience of students, families, adults, and scholars through its education and outreach programs.

Pacific Asia Museum is located at 46 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is \$10 general, \$7 students/seniors, and free for museum members and children under 12. Admission is free every 4th Friday of the month.

For more information visit www.pacificasiamuseum.org or call (626) 449-2742.

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