

# International Contemporary Masters

Volume III



Curator  
Despina Tunberg



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'Qi: Energy of the Cosmos II', ink & watercolor on rice-paper, 17.5"x 26" / 45 x 66 cm. 2009

## Lampo Leong - USA

Professor Leong received his MFA in painting with High Distinction from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco and his Ph.D. from the prestigious Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. He is currently an Art Professor and a former Art Department Chair at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Leong has also influenced thousands of students through more than 100 lectures across the United States, China, and Taiwan at institutions such as the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, the University of Minnesota, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, and the National Taiwan Normal University.

Dr. Leong's work has been featured in museums and galleries worldwide through more than 58 solo and 285 national/international juried/curated group exhibitions. Such artistic contributions have earned him over 42 awards and extensive international recognition, including a Gold Medal at the *XV Exposicao Colectiva dos Artistas de Macau*, Best of Show at the *42nd Sumi-e Society of America Juried Exhibition*, Diploma of Excellence in *Medial 1. Art Biennial* at the Art Addiction Medial Museum in London, and the Front Cover Award in *New Art International* by Book Art Press in New York. Leong's calligraphy and paintings are highly sought after, and are currently included in more than 15 museum collections as well as many public and corporate collections worldwide, such as the Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University, the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Guangdong Museum of Art in China, Walt Disney World in Florida, The Westin Surabaya in Indonesia, and The Tokyo Westin in Japan. Commissioned by the *San Francisco Arts Commission*, Leong's 26-foot-diameter granite inset calligraphic medallion is also permanently installed in a San Francisco city park.

Influenced by the ancient Chinese calligraphy wild cursive, Professor Leong's brushwork is expressive, energetic, and compelling; it reflects a modern and unique approach to calligraphy reminiscent of paintings in the Abstract Expressionism style. In a review entitled "The Wild Calligraphy of Lampo Leong", Dr. Kevin Allton wrote: "The quest to realize the sublime as an object of contemplation is an impulse Leong shares with the great calligraphers of eras past. But what seems altogether new here is the way Leong has heightened the inherently dramatic dimension of the calligraphic gesture. It's as if he'd found an artistic parallel to the way that in English, the word character can refer either to a written sign or a dramatic role. The amazing result of Leong's alchemical experiments in synthesis is that in the heart of the most cherished of traditional Chinese media he has managed to liberate the drama of Faustian energies latent in the calligraphic figure."

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