

MILLS

PRESS RELEASE

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***Mills College Art Museum Announces
HUNG LIU: OFFERINGS
January 23-March 17, 2013***

Oakland, CA—December 12, 2012. The Mills College Art Museum is pleased to present *Hung Liu: Offerings* a rare opportunity to experience two of the Oakland-based artist's most significant large-scale installations: *Jiu Jin Shan (Old Gold Mountain)* (1994) and *Tai Cang—Great Granary* (2008). *Hung Liu: Offerings* will be on view from January 23 through March 17, 2013. The opening reception takes place on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 from 6:00–8:00 pm and free shuttle service will be provided from the MacArthur Bart station during the opening.

Recognized as America's most important Chinese artist, Hung Liu's installations have played a central role in her work throughout her career. In *Jiu Jin Shan (Old Gold Mountain)*, over two hundred thousand fortune cookies create a symbolic gold mountain that engulfs a crossroads of railroad tracks running beneath. The junction where the tracks meet serves as both a crossroads and terminus, a visual metaphor of the cultural intersection of East and West. Liu references not only the

history of the Chinese laborers who built the railroads to support the West Coast Gold Rush, but also the hope shared among these migrant workers that they could find material prosperity in the new world.

The Mills College Art Museum is excited to be the first venue outside of China to present *Tai Cang—Great Granary*. The installation consists of two major components; the first is a reinterpretation of an earlier mural Liu painted while in graduate school in China which has since been destroyed. The second consists of a selection of 34 antique *dou*, a traditional Chinese food container and unit of measure, which contain a grain, cereal or bean from each of the 34 provinces and regions of China. The vessels are situated to form a map of China on the gallery floor.

Hung Liu: Offerings examines the themes of memory, history, and cultural identity through works that navigate the life-long liminal experiences of immigration and homecoming. Accompanied by related paintings and prints, *Jui Jin Shan* and *Tai Cang* serve as memorials to the past while acknowledging the rapidly changing cultural dynamics in contemporary China.

Born in Changchun, China, in 1948, a year before the creation of the People's Republic of China, Hung Liu lived through Maoist China and experienced the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. Trained as a social realist painter and muralist, she came to the United States in 1984 to attend the University of California, San Diego, where she received her MFA. One of the first people from mainland China to study abroad and pursue an art career, she moved to northern California to become a faculty member at Mills College in 1990, and has continued to live and work in the Bay Area. She has exhibited internationally at premier museums and galleries, and her work resides in prestigious private and institutional collections around the world. Hung Liu currently lives in Oakland and is a tenured professor in the art department at Mills College.

Hung Liu: Offerings is planned in conjunction with the Oakland Museum of California's retrospective *Summoning Ghosts: The Art of Hung Liu*. It is accompanied by a map of Hung Liu's permanent public art pieces in the San Francisco Bay Area. *Hung Liu: Offerings* is supported by the Agnes Cowles Bourne Fund for Special Exhibitions and the Helzel Family Foundation.

Image: Hung Liu, *Tai Cang—Great Granary*, 2008. 34 Wooden dou measures, grain, flour, mixed media mural, Dimensions variable (Mural: 8 x 40 feet)

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

(Visit <http://mcam.mills.edu> for full details)

Opening Reception

Wednesday, January 23, 2013, 6:00-8:00 pm
Mills College Art Museum

Free shuttle service provided from MacArthur Bart station. Shuttles depart for MCAM on the half hour at 5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm.

Artist Talk and Gallery Walk Through

Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 7:00 pm
Mills College Art Museum

Join artist Hung Liu in an intimate look at her work currently on view as part of *Hung Liu: Offerings*.

Temporality

With Stephen Ratcliffe and Thingamajigs Performance Group

Saturday, February 9, 2013, 8:00 am-10:00 pm
Mills College Art Museum

This 14-hour durational multi-media experience combines spoken word, projected images, choreography, and live sound. The work is built around Bay Area poet and Mills College professor Stephen Ratcliffe's work of the same name that documents 1,000 poems written in 1,000 consecutive days.

Funded in part through New Music USA's MetLife Creative Connections program.

Bill Berkson in Conversation with Hung Liu

Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 7:00 pm
Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College

Poet, critic and teacher Bill Berkson speaks with artist Hung Liu on the challenges and rewards of being an artist and arts educator.

Haunting

Performed by Molissa Fenley and Peiling Kao

Saturday, March 16, 2013, 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 17, 2013, 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Mills College Art Museum

The Mills College Art Museum has commissioned Mills College dance professor and internationally recognized choreographer Molissa Fenley to create a new work responding to the artwork in *Hung Liu: Offerings*. Fenley will perform in the gallery with Peiling Kao (MFA 2010). Sound artist Michael Mersereau (MFA 2012) provides accompaniment with enhanced recordings of found sounds related to imagery and themes in the exhibition.

About the Mills College Art Museum

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. The Mills College Art Museum is located at 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94613. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00–4:00 pm and Wednesday, 11:00–7:30 pm. Admission is free for all exhibitions and programs unless noted. For more information, visit mcam.mills.edu

About Mills College

Nestled in the foothills of Oakland, California, Mills College is a nationally renowned, independent liberal arts college offering a dynamic progressive education that fosters leadership, social responsibility, and creativity in approximately 950 undergraduate women and more than 600 graduate women and men. The College ranks as one of the *Best 377 Colleges* in the country and one of the greenest colleges in the nation by The Princeton Review. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Mills one of the top-tier regional universities in the country and lists it among the top colleges and universities in the West in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category. For more information, visit www.mills.edu.

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