



Smithsonian
*Donald W. Reynolds Center for
American Art and Portraiture*

National Portrait Gallery

News

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Alan Xie Selected as a Short List Finalist in the National Portrait Gallery's Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition

The National Portrait Gallery is proud to announce that of the 51 finalists on view in the "Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006," Alan Xie was selected as one of seven on the short list. Each of the artists on the short list will win a cash award and one will win the first prize, which includes a cash award of \$25,000 as well as a commission from the National Portrait Gallery to portray a remarkable living American for its permanent collection. The exhibition will be on view from July 1 through Feb.19, 2007.

"It's an honor to be recognized by the National Portrait Gallery. Portraiture, which has played a significant role in my life and career, has enabled me to experiment with my passion for creative illusion," said Alan Xie, a 32-year-old painter and digital media artist.

Xie was born in Shanghai, China, and received his bachelor's degree in sculpture from the China National Academy of Fine Arts. Upon relocating to the United States in 1999, Xie attended the Savannah College of Art and Design, where he obtained his master's degree. Currently, he is a full-time professor at Clayton College and State University in Atlanta.

"I've been given the opportunity to teach my passion and to convey it to young people, which is an amazing thing," Xie said. "I specifically work to build students' confidence in their artistic abilities by teaching them how to develop creative concepts through the proper use of tools and hand techniques. By doing this, they gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of art and expression." Xie also is hoping to expand the art curriculum at Clayton College, which currently offers art only as an elective.

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With his parents' encouragement, the China native began his formal training at the age of 11. He admires the work of artists such as Leonardo DaVinci, Gerhard Richter and Edgar Degas. His competition entry, "Still Image 24 – Andrea," experiments with Xie's new method of getting the image on canvas, rather than focusing on the meaning embodied in the image. The process interlaces one image upon another, achieving a subtle suggestion of movement. "My paintings are meant to vibrate much like the flicker of a television screen," Xie explained. "They seek to highlight the artificial, simulated nature of our contemporary media by bringing attention to the transient, temporal nature of the televisual image, unlike the stable and permanent nature of painting."

Xie has had recent solo exhibitions at the RX Gallery in San Francisco, Calif., the Pei Ling Chan Gallery in Savannah, Ga. and the Spiller-Vincenty Gallery in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery was established by an Act of Congress in 1962 and opened to the public in 1968. It is the only museum of its kind in the United States to combine the aspects of American history, biography and art.

The National Portrait Gallery is housed in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture at Eighth and F streets N.W., Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 357-1729 (TTY). www.npg.si.edu or www.reynoldscenter.org.

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