

# Truth, Compassion, Forbearance

## International Fine Arts Exhibit

### The Art of a Higher Good:

This painting exhibition is a collection of oil paintings, photo etchings and sculptures that express personal triumph and virtuous resilience in the midst of terror, pain and anguish.

All the artists are practitioners of the meditation practice Falun Gong which in 1999 was banned in its country of origin --China. Falun Gong's basic principles of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance presented a direct contradiction to the Communist Party's tradition of control, coercion and violence. As of now, over 2700 Chinese Falun Gong practitioners have been confirmed dead as a result of police torture, millions jailed or sent to labor camps. Some of the artists were themselves victims of the persecution and were detained and tortured for practicing Falun Gong.

These paintings are to draw attention to the grave human rights crimes currently happening in China, whilst poetically suggest the beauty of life lived in keeping with a higher order: Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance. Through these paintings, people will learn how Falun Gong practitioners have met the persecution with an uncompromising courage, responding to hatred and brutality with grand compassion, endurance and an unwavering commitment to justice. When persecution meets Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance, ordinary people become extraordinary.

*The painting exhibition that broke the attendance records at the prestigious National Arts Club, New York!*

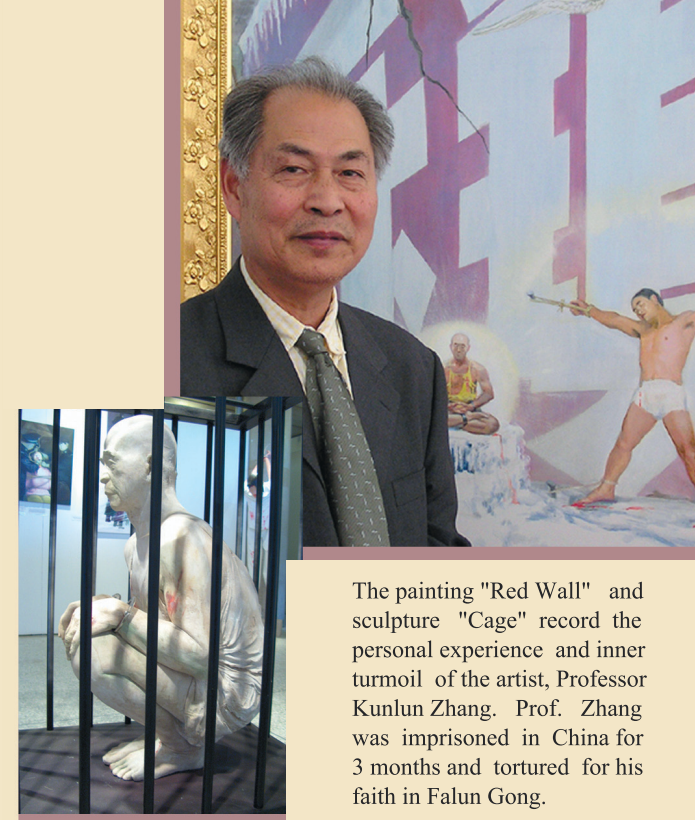
*An American viewer had lingered for a long time in front of a piece of painting, tears in eyes, before writing down the following words: "An answer to art and life."*



**Waist Drum** (color pencil on paper, by Chen Xiaoping) In many major cities around the world, people who practice Falun Gong participate in parades to celebrate traditional Chinese culture. The artist has drawn celestial beings playing amidst the clouds, echoing the unified beat from below.



**Banner** (Oil on Canvas, by Dong Xiqiang) The young mother is sewing a banner with the words "Falun Dafa is Good" in both Chinese and English. They are positive words, but also words that Chinese Communist Party officials fear: countless practitioners of Falun Gong have used them to make public appeals to end the systematic persecution in China. The healthy baby in the foreground suggests that life and faith continue, despite efforts to eradicate them.



The painting "Red Wall" and sculpture "Cage" record the personal experience and inner turmoil of the artist, Professor Kunlun Zhang. Prof. Zhang was imprisoned in China for 3 months and tortured for his faith in Falun Gong.

**A Tragedy in China** (Oil on canvas, by Li Yuan) A young woman is stricken with grief as her husband lies dead by her side, slain by torture in a brainwashing center. In his hands are documents authorities demanded he sign, disavowing Falun Gong; they are torn in half. For many, refusal to sign leads to torture and even death.

