



(Woodstock, NY - May 6, 2011) Acclaimed Chinese artist Hongnian Zhang is pleased to announce his participation in the inaugural exhibit by the America China Oil Painting Artists League (ACOPAL). The exhibit will be shown in the National Arts Club located at 15 Gramercy Park South, in New York City. An opening reception will take place in this location on May 18, from 1-4pm. The exhibit begins on May 17, 2011 and will be up through May 26, 2011. Select paintings will go on tour throughout key museums in China in 2012.

Among the paintings being exhibited by the artist is **Ground Zero**, which was painted in September 2001. The timing of the exhibit oddly coincides with breaking news about Osama Bin Laden. In explaining how the painting came about, the artist shared how his heart “was filled with darkness from despair.” By painting an angel to embody strength and tenderness, standing amidst the ruins, he felt comforted and finished the 48” high x 36” wide painting in only three days.

**Ground Zero** has been featured in several publications and a documentary film about artists’ responses to the events of 9/11. The Chinese critic YongBai Tao wrote: “Always sensitive to the life around him, Zhang’s American paintings convey his deep feelings...After sleepless nights following the horrific events of September 11, 2001, the anguished artist expressed his outrage in the painting Ground Zero. In this painting a winged angel in her full glory stands atop the ruin, mourning the lost and the perished. Said to be “a first” expression by the art world, printed copies were posted by anonymous people at the site of the World Trade Center ruins.”

The painting is part of a private collection and has never been exhibited in New York City.

#### About Hongnian Zhang

Mr. Hongnian Zhang is a Chinese American oil painter who works in the Western academic tradition. Works by this gifted artist have been exhibited and acquired by museums, galleries, corporations and private collectors in the United States, China, Europe and other Asian countries.

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