



## The Original Masterpieces Considered to be Chinese National Treasures on Limited World Tour in Austin (Jan 27-30, 2005)

The exhibition features paintings by China's renowned painter Qi Baishi (1864-1957), one of the world's ten cultural masters. Other artists include: Zhang Daqian (1899-1983), known as the "The No. One Artist of 500 Years"; Fu Baoshi (1904-1965), and Xu Beihong (1895-1953), the first Chairman of China's Central Art Academy. Also displayed are many rare pieces painted by members of the royal families from the Qing Dynasty.

These Chinese artists draw inspiration from heaven and earth, reflect the profoundness of nature, and express inner beauty. A master Chinese painting transcends the boundaries of the paper or silk frame to evoke thoughts and emotions. It has spiritual resonance and artistic creativity which even transcends its exquisite appearance. This exhibition not only showcases traditional Chinese art, but also reveals the sublime form of human expression.



**Qi Baishi Chrysanthemums**



**Qi Baishi Leaf and Insects**

**Qi Baishi** (1864-1957) was originally named Qi Huang, also known as Baishi Shanren. Qi Baishi's bird-and-flower paintings became very popular. He could draw insects with extremely fine and meticulous brushwork, yet he was also accomplished at simple, free sketch-style compositions. He successfully assimilated the meticulous and the freehand styles and created stunningly beautiful paintings of insects and flowers. Fish, shrimp and crabs were Qi Baishi's most common subjects. In 1955, he was honored with the International Peace Award, and in 1962 he was named one of the Ten Cultural Giants of the World.

**Xu Beihong** (1895-1953) Among artists who studied abroad and returned to China, Xu Beihong was exceptionally important in shaping the 20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese art practice as well as art education. Xu Beihong went to study in France between 1919 and 1927. After he



returned to **Xu Beihong Horse**

China, he became the advocator of realistic painting and French Academy style of art training. After the establishment of the new China, Xu became the first director of the Central Institute of Arts in Beijing, where French academic style training was revered as the scientific way of seeing and positive way of intervening social issues. The credits of the Chinese mastering of realistic style oil paintings in the 20th century go chiefly to Xu.