

# Artspeak

**H**e Hong Wei is one of China's new contemporary artists. Painting with exuberance and passion, rich colours and firm lines converge, blend and flow, coming together in a pattern of life that is entirely his own.

*Hometown: A Series* comprises 29 paintings, of which 25 are to be presented for exhibition and sale by **Oc-Eo Art at Gallery 27**, 27 Cork Street W1 from June 30 to July 12. The whole collection is like an ancient, epic Chinese scroll painting. Yellow and purple hues run throughout, linking the past, the present and the future - but every painting in the series is independent, with its own artistic individuality and aesthetic characteristics.

Almost without intention, He Hong Wei took to his brush as a way of restoring his childhood memories of the people, places, birds, animals and landscape of his home in Inner Mongolia. Birth place carries significant weight in Chinese culture and after many years in search of his art, He Hong Wei felt the longing to return to his hometown. But the years had not been kind and what he saw was rundown and desolate, a lost way of life and a shadow of his happy childhood memories. Even though his journey home was difficult, through his art, He Hong Wei presents to each wanderer a variety of possibilities for them all to be able to return to their spiritual home. This is, perhaps, where the true charm of these paintings lie.

**G**ernot Kissel's stylised figurative works capture the feminine mystique with deftness and precision. His still lifes and landscapes are strong and bold expressionist works executed with vibrant colour and stark line. His female figures have a direct and powerful sensuality. Passionate and audacious, these women look out from within the frames of the compositions with unapologetic and electrifying stares, daring and mystifying the viewer. Though he is deserving of comparison to the great German Expressionists of the early 20th century, including Ernst Kirchner, Erich Heckel and Alexey von Jawlensky, his heroines have an unparalleled and uncompromising contemporary feel.

Gernot Kissel was born 1939 in Worms, on the Rhine, Germany and trained as an engineer and architect. A self taught painter, he started painting at 18 and has exhibited across Europe where his works can be found in many museums, galleries and private collections. Coinciding with the launch of his new book, *Kissel er Selbst*, he will be holding a major exhibition in NYC this June. His works are available in the UK through **Vera Schuhmacher Fine Art**.

e: veraschuhmacher@aol.com

Web: [www.veraandkisselart.co.uk](http://www.veraandkisselart.co.uk)



Gernot Kissel - Summer Landscape