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# PASADENA STAR-NEWS

# Brush blends cultures

## Wang's detailed paintings on display

By Michelle J. Mills Staff Writer

The delight is in the details in Jove Wang's paintings.

For example, compare two of his plein airs from his travels in Italy:

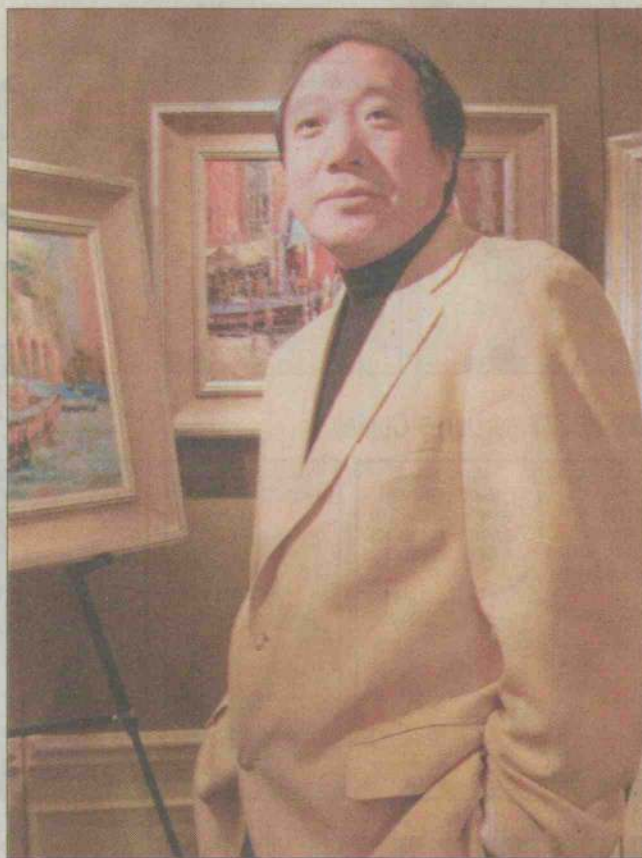
"Morning in Venice" shows a boat moored in the gray waters of the canal near some buildings. It is fall and the fog has not yet lifted in the city, so here, Wang captures the scene with subdued hues. The foreground of the work is clear, while the background melts into a blur, making you almost feel the moisture in the air.

The other, "Fish Market in Venice," takes place in summer. Bright red curtains billow out a building's arched doorways, the canal water glistens and people are busy shopping in the background. This painting boasts bold colors and crisper lines, evoking the warmth of the day.

American Legacy Fine Arts, located in a private home, is exhibiting "Jove Wang in Europe" Tuesdays through Saturdays by appointment through March 19. The show features works by Wang during his travels through Italy, France and Switzerland.

Wang is a Chinese-born artist who now lives in Altadena. He works primarily in oil in his Alhambra studio, painting por-

**WANG 10**



Leo Jarzomb Staff Photographer

Jove Wang, who has an exhibit currently on display, works primarily in oil in his Alhambra studio, painting portraits and landscapes.

### WANG

From 1 traits and landscapes. The bulk of his work had been focused on rural China, but he felt a need to change his style, so he asked Elaine Adams, owner of American Legacy, for suggestions. She encouraged him to try painting in Europe. Wang took the idea to heart and followed the footsteps of early artists by traveling to Tuscany, Florence, Venice, Paris, Marseille and other popular climes.

When scouting out the perfect sites to paint, Wang first reflects on how he feels about the place and looks for its energy. He is not only concerned with the beauty of the scene, as there is much more to it than a pretty

foliage or stately architecture.

"You should understand the tree, the building, the boat, what these things mean to the entire environment, the entire context," Wang said.

Wang graduated from the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts (now named the China Academy of Art). In 1990, Wang moved to America and took a job creating designs for fabric. His boss didn't think Wang's English was good enough, so he let him go. After that, Wang devoted himself full time to his art.

"Painting is difficult," Wang said. "Painting is not just a job, it is creative. If it's just work, it's boring."

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Leo Jarzomb Staff Photographer

"Docking on the Canal" is among the featured works of Jove Wang at the American Legacy Fine Arts in Pasadena.

### JOVE WANG IN EUROPE

American Legacy Fine Arts  
Private home on Linda  
Vista Avenue

Free

By appointment through  
March 19

626-577-7733

www.americanlegacy  
finearts.com

### LATER

Jove Wang's work also will be on display at the "100th Annual Gold Medal Juried Exhibition" at the Pasadena Museum of California Art April 3-24.