

Jove Wang's brush blends cultures

BY MICHELLE J. MILLS



PHOTOS BY LEO JARZOMB

Jove Wang will shows of his paintings, "Jove Wang in Europe," at the American Legacy Fine Arts in Pasadena.

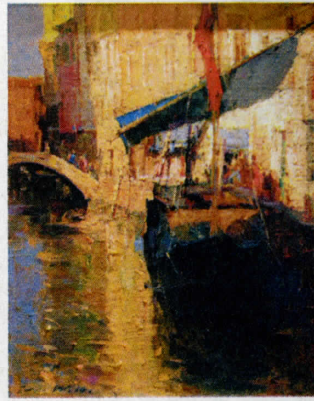
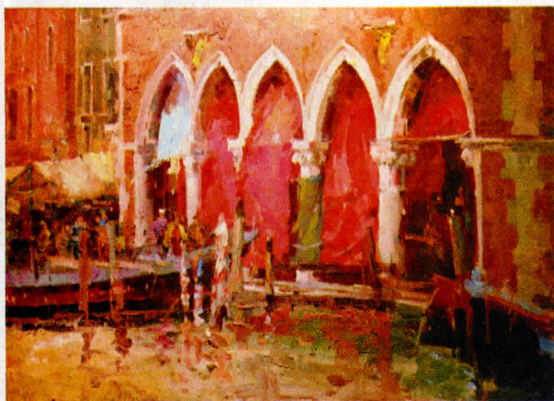
The delight is in the details in Jove Wang's paintings.

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



JOVE WANG IN EUROPE

By appointment through
March 19
American Legacy Fine Arts
Free
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.

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 portraits 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," he 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."