The University of Oklahoma
FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 1997

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Debra Krittenbrink, 405/321-7374

The University of Oklahoma's Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art will be showing
Through An Open Door: Selections from the Robert A. Hefner III Collection of
Contemporary Chinese Oil Paintings March 2-April 6, 1997, at the museum, 410 W.
Boyd. The collection, which opens from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 2, includes a
selection of 56 paintings by 34 artists from the People's Republic of China. It focuses
on a variety of styles and techniques used in the years following the Cultural
Revolution.

Hefner Collection curator Jon Burris says that audiences should prepare to be
surprised by the quality and diversity of styles represented. Included in the collection
are transitional works showing the artists' development from a Socialist Realist style,
common in Chinese painting through the late 1970's, as well as "New Wave" art and
recent works of surrealism.

Hefner began collecting in 1984, when he toured the People's Republic of China
during a business trip. His arrival coincided with the opening of the Sixth National
Exhibition in Beijing, which showcased over a thousand works of art from twenty of
China's major art academies. He was impressed with the creative explosion taking
place in China, and began acquiring art and getting to know the artists. Ultimately, he
organized the first major western exhibition of contemporary Chinese oil painting, the
Harkness House show, in New York in 1987. The success of the show led Hefner to
open the Hefner Galleries in New York, the first galleries to represent exclusively
Chinese oil painters. When the uprising in Tiananmin Square made it difficult to obtain
paintings, the gallery closed, though Hefner continued collecting. He now has over 100

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Hefner Chinese Collection

eamples of post-Cultural Revolution Chinese oils.

"The simple beauty and quality of these paintings will astound you," says museum Director and Chief Curator Thomas R. Toperzer. "Seeing these works will challenge any pre-conceived ideas you may have about Chinese art."

A publication and interactive CD rom, which includes interviews with the artists and tours of their studios, will accompany the exhibition. The show premieres at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art before beginning a national tour.

In conjunction with Through an Open Door, curator Jon Burris will moderate a panel discussion with exhibition artists Wang Huaiqing, Wang Yidong, Cao Li, Ai Xuan, and Luo Zhongli, on Tuesday, March 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the museum.

Other exhibitions extended by popular demand at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art include World War II--A Different View, Sketches by Major John Donald Walp. US Army, Ret., which presents behind-the-scenes pencil sketches of a soldier's life during World War II; The Richard H. and Adeline J. Fleischaker Collection, a newly acquired 400-piece private collection of Southwest Art; and selections from the museum's permanent collection.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 410 W. Boyd at The University of Oklahoma, is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, 1 until 4:30 p.m. For more information or accommodations on the basis of disability, call 325-3272.

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