



## Chinese art form focus of exhibit

Chris Clay

November 19, 2010

The centuries-old art form of Chinese brush painting is getting a contemporary Canadian touch in an exhibition at Mississauga's Eminence Learning Centre.

The show, which continues until Dec. 4 at the Ridgeway Dr. facility, features paintings by instructor Baoxing Zhang and 15 of his art students. The works are in the Chinese brush painting medium.

Erin Mills artist Laura Beaton, who's been painting with Zhang for two years, said she was drawn to the art form because of its rich tradition.

"Where else could you find so much history to learn from?" said Beaton. "You can study the masters of the art form over the ages, but also bring it into the 21st century. I tend to add a lot of Canadiana to my paintings."

Other artists participating in the show are Theresa Bryson, John Bonasheski, Sylvanna Choung, Bernadette Duzyk, Isabelle Hurter, Natalie Woods, Lorene Holmes, Adele Hartwell, Shirley Secor, Georgina Simington, Themensa Ma, Paulie Leung, Dale Care and Marianne Dove.

Beaton said the exhibition is a rare chance to see work by Zhang. It's the first exhibit held at the centre that includes Zhang's work.

Many of the subjects in the show have an Asian connection. However, there are also works that feature scenes or animals traditionally found in Canada and North America.

Beaton said time spent with Zhang has been invaluable.

"His reputation is what brought me to him and I figured if I could get on with him as a student, maybe I do have some talent," she said. "If you go to most art galleries, you won't see Chinese brush art. We're trying to elevate (its presence) and show people what a truly wonderful art form it is."

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**Chinese art.** Traditional Chinese brush painting artist Baoxing Zhang and 15 of his students will be showing their art until December 4 at the Eminence Learning Centre on Ridgeway Dr. *Staff photo by Fred Loek*

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