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Merging: The Art of Diana Shui-lu Wong
OPENS: March 18, 2006 - October 15, 2006

(LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1, 2006) - The Chinese American Museum (CAM) is proud to present its next major art exhibit entitled *Merging: the Art of Diana Shui-lu Wong*, a mid-career retrospective opening March 18, 2006. *Merging* features a collection of work that spans four decades, from Wong's early impressionistic portraits and landscapes to recent abstract compositions inspired by the Chinese philosophy of the I Ching or The Book of Changes.

Los Angeles-based artist Diana Shui-lu Wong was born and raised in 1940s Hong Kong. Wong's interest in art and talent for drawing was apparent at the age of five. Throughout her childhood, she studied calligraphy, enriching her passion for art. Wong studied fine art close to home until her deepening interest in modern Western art, especially impressionism, led her to the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, Italy, in 1957, and later the Royal School of Art in London. Wong returned to Hong Kong and traveled to New York and Los Angeles, where she set up permanent residence in 1970. Wong opened a studio of her own in Santa Monica with her daughter in 1972. Since settling in Los Angeles, Wong has established herself as an international local artist who balances traditional Chinese and contemporary Western aesthetics.

While Wong's classical training in both Chinese and Western painting form the basis for her techniques, her study of the I-Ching offered her a decisive break from traditional modes as well as new creative directions. In 1962, Wong began to experiment beyond the conventions of her formal art training to explore the liberating complexity of abstraction. Discovering that she could express pride for her heritage and culture through her work, Wong has also found self-empowerment through her art making. Wong's most recent work ventures boldly into abstraction while grounded in nature and the elements. Her striking images, like color-flooded snapshots of the cosmos, explore universal questions about being and balance.

The Friends of the Chinese American Museum is a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit corporation serving as the support group, advisor and community link for the Museum. CAM's mission is to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of America's diverse heritage by researching, preserving, and sharing the history, rich cultural legacy, and continuing contributions of Chinese Americans. CAM is located in downtown Los Angeles at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, the birthplace of Los Angeles as well as the site of the city's original Chinatown. ###