



**NEWS** FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Contact: Mary F. Crean

860-695-6360 / [mcrean@hplct.org](mailto:mcrean@hplct.org)

### **Watercolor Paintings Reflect the Beauty of Nature with a Chinese Influence**

**HARTFORD, CT (November 25, 2011)** — Hartford Public Library announced today that the ArtWalk will host a new exhibition, **Flight, Flora & Fantasy** by artist Amy Xie. The free exhibition opens Friday, December 2 with a reception from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and runs through January 15, 2012.

**Flight, Flora & Fantasy** represents abstract paintings of beauty, freedom, purity and hope created by Chinese–American artist Amy Xie. “When I was a teenager, I was inspired by traditional Chinese Culture and the beauty of nature. So I chose Chinese Art for my major in college. I enjoy the beauty of the outdoors by watching the seasons change. I transfer the beauty of nature onto paper,” said Xie.

Ms. Xie began studying art in China, where she specialized in watercolor on rice paper. Her paintings are influenced by traditional Chinese motifs fused with elements of her spiritual Eastern background and Western culture.

The artist creates realistic details through meticulous brushwork. Ms. Xie’s favorite subjects can be found in nature: the lotus flower, representing purity and peace; the plum flower, signifying dignity and the dawn of spring and hope; and the eagle, representing success and heroism.

Her works combine traditional Chinese brush techniques with Western styles, carrying beautiful movement and energy throughout Ms. Xie’s designs.

The rich, exquisite colors and lofty symbolism of her work form Ms. Xie’s distinct and vivid artistic style. Her watercolors elegantly translate themes of nature into distinct and vivid *art*.

Anwar Ahmad, former associate librarian and collector of Amy Xie’s work, shares, “Like beautiful poetry, Amy’s work becomes a beautiful experience you enjoy over and over again with the viewing of each painting. View it, experience it, enjoy it, and then treasure it forever.”

This exhibit is supported in part by the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

## **About the Artist**

Artist Amy Xie has been creating traditional Chinese watercolor paintings for over 25 years.

She has a Certificate in Chinese Watercolor Painting from Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai, China and studied under Juntiao Qian, one of China's most famous artists.

Xie is currently employed at the Connecticut Department of Labor. She resides in Vernon, Connecticut.

## **About the Gallery**

**ArtWalk** at Hartford Public Library offers one of the largest and most stunning exhibition spaces in greater Hartford and the opportunity for visitors to view art in a magnificent setting in their own community. The state-of-the art gallery rises above Main Street along a glass wall that floods the space with ambient light during the day and appears to glow as a jewel box at night. Exhibitions offer an array of art experiences that reflect a variety of media, styles, and cultures in the art world, providing diverse viewing experiences, and allowing for many tastes. Art work is displayed on "floating" wall sections that allow the visitor to discover each piece while never seeing the whole exhibition from one vantage point. Because of the unusual cable system in place, one of the most unique aspects of the **ArtWalk** is that any wall and lighting configuration or arrangement can change with the nature of every new exhibition. The gallery was made possible through the generosity of donors, especially the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. To learn more about the **ArtWalk**, please visit <http://artwalk.hplct.org/>.

## **About Hartford Public Library:**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org)

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