



Mimi Chen Ting

Hanging on This Side of Blue

Acrylic on Canvas

48" X 54" 2004

## East Meets West

By Dory Hulburt

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While you're at the Harwood, check out the work of local Asian-American artists Teruko Wilde and Mimi Chen Ting.

Shanghai-born, Hong Kong-raised Mimi Chen Ting came to the U.S. to attend college and had her first solo exhibition at San Francisco's Lucien Gallery in 1970. Movement is a common thread in her printmaking, painting, and performance art. In her figurative work, she tends to forego details and distill human figures into primal elements—head, hands, and feet with bodies in motion: symbols of us rather than us.

For the Asian show, the Harwood has hung three of Mimi's abstracts, bold acrylics in forceful colors with weighty forms obedient to the physical laws of another reality. In "Hanging on This Side of Blue," three hefty forms orbit each other with string curling between them. They could be geographic formations seen from a great distance, or a microscopic view of something unrecognizable—but their spatial relationship achieves a kind of grace that reminds me of the space-station rendezvous to the tune of Strauss's "Blue Danube Waltz" in "2001: Space Odyssey."

Mimi currently is working on a series of abstract paintings in which she focuses on string, or ribbon—its shapes, colors, and, needless to say, its movement.