

MING FAY



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*June 28-July 28, 1985*  
Kansas City Art Institute  
Charlotte Crosby Kemper Gallery  
*A Centennial Exhibition*

*Pink Conch, 1984; mixed media. Photo: Ming Fay*

Ming Fay's early work was minimalist sculpture—cooly geometrical forms executed in industrial materials. What leap of imagination led him from the Platonic regularity of the sphere to the variegated imperfection of the pear, from machine-tooled metal to a medium so pre-eminently hands-on as papier mache? The jump is not so long as it may appear. Ming Fay has not so much lost interest in what were known in the sixties as "primary structures" as he has discerned that they will not be attained except through what a good Aristotelian would call secondary qualities.

Yet the animating tension in Fay's sculpture is not so much between structure and quality, form and appearance, as it is between (temporal) process and (spatial) presence. Think about the way he makes his work. Let's say he decides to make a piece in the form of a hot pepper, one whose sensual pliancy takes us back through Edward Weston to the smooth folds of Ingres' drapery. He uses a real pepper as his model, but long before he's finished his work the vegetable has begun to spoil. So a succession of models must be used, each somewhat different, and each observed for long enough to allow change to have become part of Fay's observations. So between the unique empirical pepper, constantly subject to change, and the species pepper, a constant idea, lies something else, idiosyncratic yet generalized: the territory of Ming Fay's art.

Barry Schwabsky

Catalogue excerpt. Asian Arts Institute, "Dreams and Fantasies",  
New York City, May 17-June 14, 1985

*Bosc, 1985; bronze. Photo: Ming Fay*



## Exhibition Checklist

(Dimensions are in inches)

### *Sculpture*

**Bartlett, 1982**

Mixed media, 33 x 16 x 14

**Big Bosc, 1982**

Mixed media, 41 x 22 x 18

**Black Plum, 1984**

Mixed media, 21 x 19 x 20

**Bosc, 1985**

Bronze, 15 x 16 x 30

**Buckeye, 1983**

Mixed media, 15 x 15 x 18

**Itchy Ball, 1979**

Mixed media, 15 x 15 x 17

**Locust, 1981**

Mixed media, 34 x 37 x 72

**Pink Conch, 1984**

Mixed media, 38 x 20 x 14

**Red Plum, 1983**

Mixed media, 21 x 24 x 21

**Shell of Venus, 1984**

Mixed media, 29 x 29 x 12

**Sweetgum, 1983**

Mixed media, 16 x 16 x 34

(Mixed media: wire, gauze, paper pulp, rhoplex, pigment, oil)

### *Drawings*

**Cherries, 1979**

Acrylic, charcoal, mixed media on paper, 72 x 108

**Chinese Lantern, 1985**

Ink/watercolor, 30 x 42

**Cowrie, 1985**

Charcoal, watercolor, paperpulp on paper, 30 x 44½

**Linjao, 1985**

Charcoal, 30 x 42

**Miracus Thather, 1984**

Watercolor, 30 x 42

**Mussel, 1981**

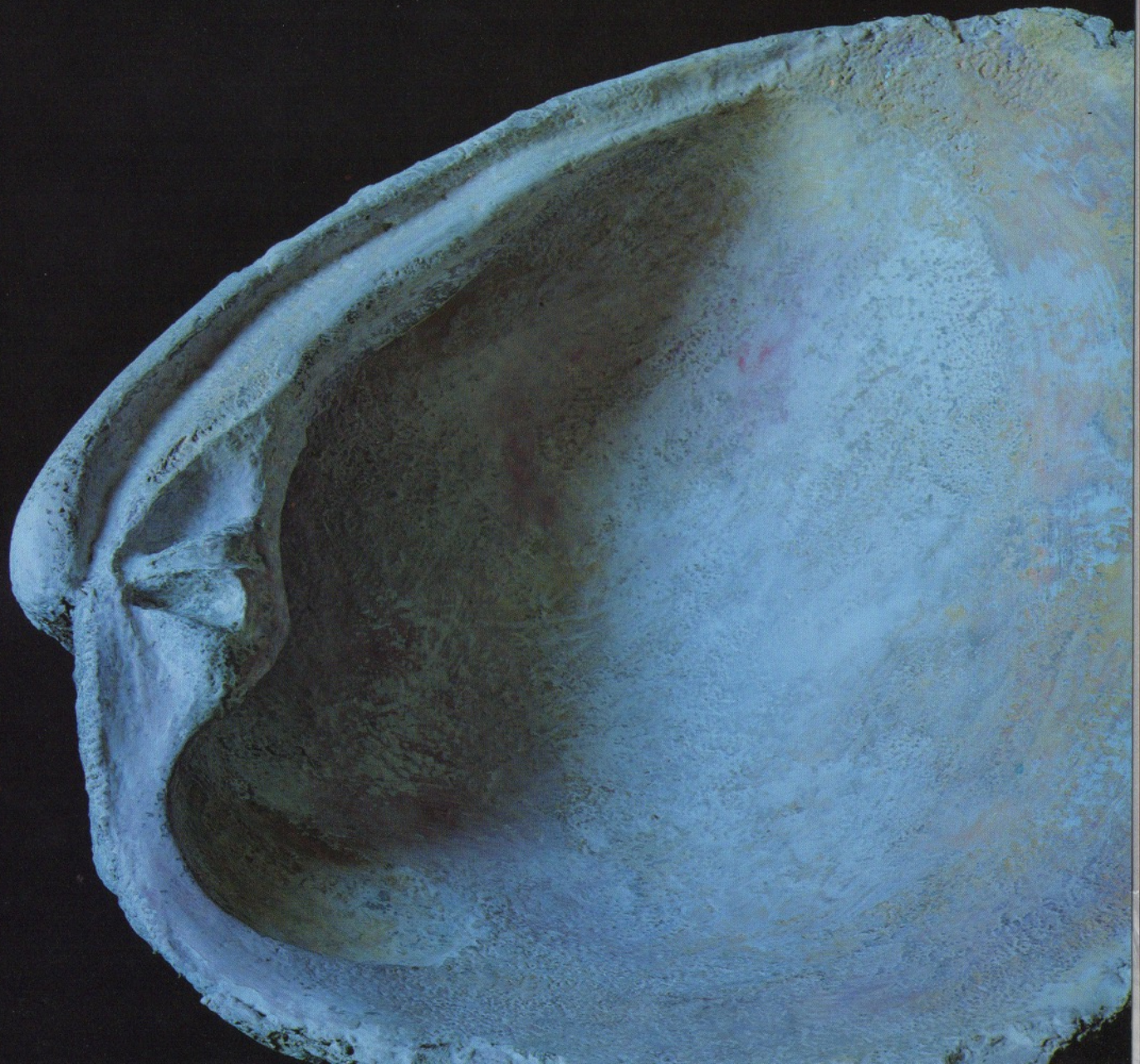
Charcoal/watercolor, 30 x 42

**Peppers, 1979**

Acrylic, charcoal, mixed media on paper, 60 x 168

**Sweetgum, 1981**

Charcoal/watercolor, 30 x 42



# Ming Fay

**Born:** Shanghai, China, 1943

**Education:** University of California, Santa Barbara, California;  
M.F.A., 1970  
Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri; B.F.A., 1967  
Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, Ohio;  
Diploma, 1965

## Solo Exhibitions:

- 1984 Broadway Windows, New York City
- 1980 Allan Frumkin Gallery, Chicago International Art Exposition,  
Chicago, Illinois
- 1976 Kingpitcher Gallery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, Texas  
Quorum Galleries, Hong Kong
- 1972 University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 1970 University of California, Santa Barbara, California
- 1969 Sally Jackson Gallery, Hong Kong  
United States Cultural Center, Hong Kong

## Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 1985 Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri,  
"A Centennial Celebration: Highlights from Kansas City Art  
Institute Alumni"  
Asian Art Institute, New York City, "Dreams and Fantasies"  
Allan Frumkin Gallery, New York City, "Outline/Cutout/Silhouette"  
Howard Salon Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan, "Works on Paper from  
New York"  
Catherine Gallery, New York City, "Myths"
- 1984 P.P.O.W., New York City, "Indigestion"  
Robert Kidd Gallery, Michigan, "New Realism"  
Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan, "Overseas Chinese Artists"
- 1983 The Drawing Center, New York City, "Selections 22"
- 1982 Allan Stone Gallery, New York City, "Talents"  
Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong, "The Chinese Response"
- 1981 Heckscher Museum, New York, "A Feast for the Eyes"  
Bergen County Museum, New Jersey, "Five from the Orient"
- 1978 Alternative Museum, New York City, "Ancient Heritage,  
New Directions"

## Public Collections:

City Museum of Hong Kong, Hong Kong  
Columbus Gallery of Fine Art, Columbus, Ohio  
Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, Texas  
Huntington National Bank, Columbus, Ohio  
Mobil Oil Corporation, New York City  
New York State University, Potsdam, New York  
Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, California  
Pittsburgh National Bank, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Prudential Insurance Company, Los Angeles, California  
R.J. Reynolds, Salem, North Carolina  
Sidney Lewis Foundation, Richmond, Virginia  
Ten Main Center, Kansas City, Missouri  
University of California, Santa Barbara, California



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