PRESS RELEASE

"He Jinwei: Purlieu – Nirvana" 2006.9.9 - 10.15 Long March Space, Beijing

He Jinwei's solo exhibition in 2005, "Purlieu", was a reflection of society based upon personal experiences – with an individual and introspective focus resulting in an unclear and restrained poetic expression. The series of works for this show, have broadened the world of the individual, bringing focus to history, society and the people, expressing in a direct and objective manner, the results and situation of social change. For He Jinwei, this is a process moving from internal reflection to external.

In the winter of 2005, He Jinwei set off upon the historical Long March route, recording those sights and sounds he encountered along the way in the form of a series of paintings. With a seemingly objective gaze of those historical images (sculpture and historical sites), the viewer is confronted with a variegated, but at the same time, objective and straightforward explanation of the process of revolution and the current state of society.

The series paintings *Purlieu—Nirvana* expresses the concern for the living environment and society through a recording, expressing the current situation in China where everything from concept to action is being torn down and reconstructed. Nirvana refers to rebirth – a process of metamorphosis. At a time when nearly one out of five construction cranes in the world are scattered throughout the towns and cities of China, people feel not only the joy of the change, but also the anxiousness and fickleness during the period of the alteration from old to new.

Through sincere emotion and simple technique, the artist describes the deadlock between idealism and reality.