

# Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## NANCY CHUNN

*The China Series, Part I: 2200 B.C. – 1368 A.D.*

October 31 – November 28, 1992

Although Nancy Chunn has had a long standing interest in Chinese history, the June 4, 1989 massacre at Tiananmen Square provided the impetus for the China Series. This work chronicles both the vast and complex history of China and traces the ancient and modern precedents leading to the Tiananmen massacre. This exhibition presents the first half of the China series, with each of the six works delineating dynasties in combination with periods of unification or division (2200 B.C. – 1368 A.D.)

The paintings combine a mapping system and a narrative with a grid or similar structural element. As the paintings advance chronologically, the artist employs a progressively more complex vocabulary to reflect China's rich geography, history and culture, including its industrial and technological advances. Icons, poems and art historical references are borrowed from 'real' Chinese history and reworked, enabling the artist and viewer to participate in this epoch.

The first four *China* paintings were included in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Painting Biennial in 1991 at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. In his catalogue essay for the exhibition, art critic Ken Johnson notes:

“In taking on such a dauntingly, almost absurdly vast subject as the history of China, she declares that although the laws of modernism may be indispensable, painting needs to do more than just endlessly reinvestigate its own limitations if it is to maintain the urgency of purpose.”

In addition to the full-sized paintings, preliminary sketches, written notes and painting studies will be shown so that the viewer may trace the intricate process of creating this series.

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This is Chunn's third exhibition at the Feldman Gallery. The artist will discuss her work at 4:30 on October 31, prior to the opening reception which is from 5:00 to 7:00. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 – 6:00, Mondays by appointment. For more information, please contact Susan Yung at (212)226-3232.