

## international paper

UCLA Hammer Museum  
Los Angeles

Hot on the heels of *Drawing Now: Eight Propositions* at MOMA QNS comes *International Paper* at the UCLA Hammer Museum. Twenty-two artists from Asia, Europe, and the Americas are included in *International Paper*, an exhibition that puts aside curatorial "propositions" in favor of the sort of unexpected connections that appear when diverse works are hung side by side without conceit. What surfaces here is the way in which working on paper functions as a freewheeling space in which to figure things out and its current influence on painting. Almost all of the artists included in the show are answering painterly questions, many by means of the kind of loosening up that can come from drawing techniques like watercolor and collage. For some of the artists, working on paper provides an opportunity for an open-ended exploration of materials and the process of making. Tam Van Tran explores what exactly constitutes a painting with his sublime *Beetle Manifesto IV*, made from crimped, stapled, and hole-punched paper strips brushed with pigment mixed with chlorophyll and spirulina. Likewise for

Alessandro Pessoli, whose drawings and stop-action meditations on violence, sex, and drug use exploit the unpredictable effects that result from mixing oil, tempera, and bleach, or for Nina Lola Bachhuber, whose ink on paper drawings seem born from the same internal psychological states they appear to depict. At the other end of the spectrum are a number of artists attracted to the refinement of working on paper. Jockum Nordström's oddly delicate painted paper collages draw on the rougher features of folk art. Aaron Morse's watercolors recall the golden years of American illustration, depicting climactic moments of adventure, danger, and disaster (in one work overboard sailors are dismembered by a frenzy of sharks). A real treat is the expressive line work and sensitive colored ink washes of Li Jin, a Chinese artist who contributes a series of domestic scenes as well as a magnificent floor scroll over fifty feet long that shows a feast of dishes interspersed with recipes and eating advice. Philip Martin

