



**GODS OF THE FOREST**  
Weilun Ha

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Lopdell House Gallery

OFF-SITE @ NEW LYNN

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**An East meets Westie encounter as the gallery is transformed into an architectural 'bush walk' that unites traditional Chinese ink landscape techniques with the flora and fauna of the Waitakere Ranges.**

### **The Torchbearer's Message**

At a young age Weilun studied under a Lingnan master of traditional Chinese painting, continuing a cultural tradition losing popularity within his generation. The region south of the Five Ranges in Guangdong is commonly referred to as South of the Ranges, or Lingnan. The opening of Guangzhou as a trading port during the Qin dynasty led to a radical change in the Lingnan art practice. The port became one of China's busiest ports during the Ming dynasty and Qing dynasty. This afforded the renowned Three Masters of Lingnan passage through the wide world beyond on what became known as the Silk Road of the Sea. After returning to China, the Three Masters of Lingnan took up the slogan "Balancing Chinese and foreign, blending ancient and modern", a revolutionary stand against traditional art.

The impact of this new Chinese painting style known as the Lingnan School spread rapidly in contemporary art circles throughout Asia.

Today, in the Waitakere Ranges, Weilun Ha continues to uphold this Lingnan philosophy of balancing Chinese and foreign as he introduces the kauri and nikau to the Asian calligraphic ink painting style. The traditional learned techniques blend harmoniously with contemporary art practice and materials, a modernisation that respects the past. Weilun's message promotes advocacy for the mighty kauri which he sees as a treasured part of New Zealand heritage and in the foreign range he has adopted as home.

**Curated by Kenny Willis  
Lopdell House Gallery**

**Weilun Ha's artwork has appeared weekly in the Chinese Herald, he was a finalist in the Wallace Awards 2012, and won the Waitakere Central Community Arts Council Landscape Awards 2012.**



Weilun will be giving a free public demonstration of his brush painting technique at the New Lynn Community Centre, followed by tea and a Q&A session.

**Sunday 25 August, 9.30am – 12.30pm  
New Lynn Community Centre, 45 Totara Ave,  
New Lynn, Auckland**