DAYTON ART INSTITUTE OFFERS RARE CHANCE TO SEE THE WORK OF 48 CHINESE ARTISTS IN *CHANGING LANDSCAPES*

(*Exhibition will also feature installation work by noted artist Maya Lin*)

(DAYTON, OHIO) – March 12, 2012 – The Dayton Art Institute will offer a rare glimpse into the world of 21st century Chinese fiber art, when it presents the special exhibition *Changing Landscapes: Contemporary Chinese Fiber Art*, on view March 24 – June 17.

*Changing Landscapes* is the first exhibition of contemporary Chinese fiber art to travel to the United States, and it features 45 works, created by 48 artists during the first decade of the 21st century. The Dayton Art Institute’s showing is the only Midwestern stop for the exhibition, and its final U.S. engagement before returning to China.

In conjunction with *Changing Landscapes*, The Dayton Art Institute will display Maya Lin’s installation piece *Flow*. Lin is best known for her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

*Changing Landscapes* showcases the work of artists selected from the past five International Fiber Art Biennales, held in China since 2000, which are devoted to innovative new ideas and thinking in the field of fiber art. The featured artists all study or teach at institutions of higher education throughout China. The exhibition provides a snapshot of how three generations of artists have responded to the economic, political, and social changes that have transformed the Chinese landscape over the past decade. The title *Changing Landscapes* not only refers to the outer visible form of the world, but also serves as a metaphor for the inner landscape of the artists’ hearts and minds.

The works in *Changing Landscapes* are wide-ranging in scale, materials, techniques and content, from figurative to abstract, two dimensional to sculptural, crafted to conceptual. They demonstrate how contemporary Chinese fiber artists have forged a new aesthetic by combining their own experiences with the diverse influences of China’s artistic heritage. The techniques and forms of the artworks include a broad spectrum, from classic tapestry weaving and pile weaving, to embroidery, printing, dyeing, and large-scale sculptural pieces. Many of the artists also utilize unusual materials, such as metal, wood and plastics.
The exhibition was originally co-curated by Ni Yue-Hong, a professor at the Fiber Arts Institute in China, and Deborah Corsini, curator at the San Jose Quilt and Textile Museum. Guest curator for The Dayton Art Institute’s presentation of Changing Landscapes and Maya Lin: Flow is Lisa Morrisette, from the Department of Art and Art History at Wright State University.

Visitors to Changing Landscapes will also have the opportunity to view one of Maya Lin’s large-scale installations, Flow, which will occupy one entire gallery at the museum.

Lin’s work defies categorization. She explores relationships between architecture, sculpture, and landscape, between the natural and the man-made, between science and art. Her inspiration is drawn from a wide range of sources, including geological phenomena and topography, prehistoric earthworks, Japanese gardens, and engineering principals such as fluid mechanics.

Flow is made up of thousands of two-by-four boards, cut and stacked on end to create a wave-like form that swells to a height of two feet. Working with industrial materials and abstract forms, Lin seeks to evoke the natural rather than the man-made. Her work is not a reproduction of landscape; it recreates the feeling of landscape. Flow offers a unique way of looking at landscape and experiencing landscape.

Lin is perhaps best known for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. She achieved national recognition when, as a 21-year-old senior at Yale University, her design for the memorial was selected from among 1,420 submissions. Since that first work, she has gone on to create numerous public monuments, architecture, earthworks and installations, as well as smaller-scale gallery pieces.

A number of special programs and events are planned in conjunction with Changing Landscapes and Flow. These include a talk on March 26 by Deborah Corsini of the San Jose Quilt and Textile Museum, Super Saturday Family Day on March 31, the popular Tour and Tea programs, a variety of workshops, and the return of Movie Nights in May. For more information and a complete list of all related programs, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org/changinglandscapes or call the museum at 937-223-5277.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their cell phones to the museum for an enhanced experience. Guide by Cell audio tours will offer additional information about the artists and works in the exhibitions. In addition, the museum will again partner with Comtactics to offer mobile-based content via QR codes. Using a smartphone with a QR code reader, visitors will be able to scan QR codes in the exhibition to learn more about the exhibition.

Continuing a popular feature of the recent American Chronicles exhibition, visitors will also have the opportunity to “put themselves in the landscape” and have their photo taken while visiting Changing Landscapes. Photos will be posted to the museum’s website, Facebook page and Flickr page.

Changing Landscapes: Contemporary Chinese Fiber Art and Maya Lin: Flow will be on view at The Dayton Art Institute from March 24 – June 17. Admission to both exhibitions is $12 for adults, $9 for seniors (60+), students (18+ w/ID), active military and groups (10 or more), $6 for youth (ages 7 – 17) and free for children 6 and under. Admission is free for museum members through the generous support of JPMorgan Chase. Ticket prices include admission to the museum’s permanent collection. For more information about group rates and tours, please call 937-512-0152 or e-mail meberle@daytonart.org. A $1 Historic Preservation Fee will be added to all ticket sale transactions.
Changing Landscapes and Flow are presented with support from Patron Sponsors KeyBank and At&t Advertising Solutions, and Supporting Sponsors DP&L Foundation and Kettering Health Network, with Additional Support from Comtactics.

For more information about this exhibition and other programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-5277. Be sure to also visit The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook (facebook.com/daytonartinstitute) and Twitter (twitter.com/daytonart) for additional information and exclusive offers.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. The galleries and Museum Store are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursday until 8 p.m. Suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The Cafe serves lunch Wednesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 2:30 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-5277 or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

# # #