

CHISLEHURST LIFE

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DISCOVER
IGHTHAM MOTE
THIS WINTER



MAO WEN

CHINESE ARTIST WHO LOVES LIFE IN CHISLEHURST.

Forthcoming Solo Show of Sporting, City And Flower Paintings
The Osborne Studio Gallery Motcomb Street London SW1 (www.osg.uk.com)

China is said to be gradually taking over the planet: growing economy, skyscraper cities, entrepreneurial energy, thrusting art scene, international art fairs, but one Chinese-born contemporary artist, Mao Wen Biao, who has won international acclaim, decided to immerse himself in British life, and make his home in Chislehurst.

Mao was born in Shanghai, in 1950, the only artist in his family, one of seven brothers in a seafaring family. He often returns to Shanghai or Beijing, where he is shocked by pollution, and astonished by Chinese shopping mania. His

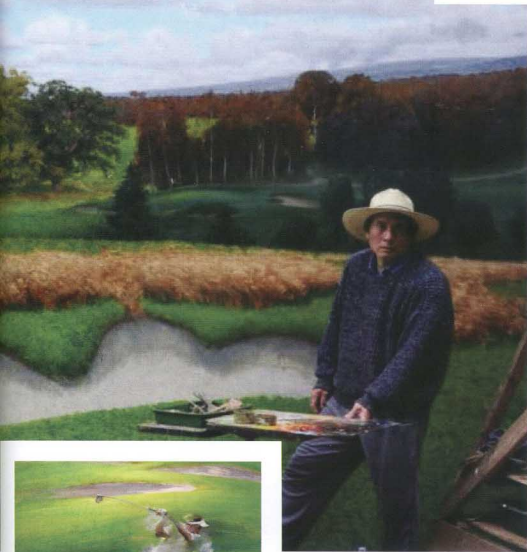


compatriots collect armfuls of 'labels' while he prefers a simple linen smock.

Since 1993, he has made his home in Chislehurst, a peaceful green paradise, where he planted a terraced garden, with carpets of flowers, which he tends with loving care twice a day. The woodland beyond his house is a constant delight after the grimy atmosphere of Shanghai and Beijing.

Mao has immersed himself in British life and character, which he captures in his art, from high society party people

BIAO



commissioned vast trompe l'oeil hoardings from Mao to disguise building works, which delighted passersby, attracted valuable column inches and the attention of art lovers, who asked Mao to paint an 1870s garden party scene for a grim stone corridor in Holland Park, described as a 'triumphant success' by the President of the Royal Academy of Arts. In turn this led to commissions for the Ritz Hotel, another elegant party scene with echoes of Gainsborough and Hogarth, and a mural to celebrate the RAC Club Pall Mall, including portraits of 300 members.



Hunter loves equestrian sports, encouraged Mao to paint two versions of the Charge of the Light Brigade, and Mao has discovered horse racing is his favourite subject, though he also excels at pounding cyclists, clusters of sailing boats (collected by Formula One mogul Eddie Jordan), and recently mastered the secrets of depicting a graceful golf swing. A Russian oligarch asked him to create a golf room, and here Chislehurst came into its own again. The local golf club provided his main source of inspiration.

New paintings by Mao Wen Biao, of sport, City crowds, fields of flowers will be shown at a major new solo show from November 19th until December 6th at London's most important equestrian gallery, **THE OSBORNE STUDIO GALLERY, 2 MOTCOMB STREET, LONDON SW1X 8JU**

course when Professor Paul Huxley introduced him to the visionary property developer, John Hunter.

A gentle, modest man, though gifted with extraordinary technical virtuosity, Mao was discovered, nurtured and supported by Hunter, ex-Cavalry officer, but also a modern Medici, whose current projects include constructing a new village, Poundbury style, in the Cotswolds, complete with pub, cricket pitch, and stately mansion or two.

When masterminding the revival of smart Kensington and Chelsea streets, Hunter

in 18th and 19th century finery, to City of London commuters, explosions of speed on the racecourse and cycle track, and exuberant flowers en masse, inspired by his Chislehurst garden. Mao studied in Beijing, completed a vast painting for the Chinese Government of a battle in the Sino-Japanese war, but decided to leave Beijing to study at the Royal College of Art in London. His story takes on a life changing