

An abstract painting featuring layered, organic shapes in shades of brown, beige, and cream. The composition is dense and textured, with a central, darker, more defined shape that resembles a stylized face or a complex organic form. The background consists of broad, sweeping strokes of lighter colors, creating a sense of depth and movement.

# HAI TAO

NEW PAINTINGS

**M. Sutherland Fine Arts**  
New York, NY



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## **New Paintings**

[b.1959]

M. Sutherland Fine Arts  
NEW YORK, NY

# Contents

This catalogue accompanies the exhibition

**HAI TAO**  
New Paintings

March to April, 2014

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**Look Forward to Peace**, 2012, Detail  
ink on paper mounted as hand scroll, 12 x 97<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches



# HAI TAO

Martha Sutherland

The youngest of a family of intellectuals in Nanjing, Hai Tao (born 1959) was immersed in the scholarly world as a small boy. Nanjing, still referred to by artists by the traditional name, Jinling, has been a center for literati pursuits in China for thousands of years. Hai Tao graduated from the Nanjing Art Academy and worked as a designer at the Nanjing Film Studio. He continued to paint in his spare time and then, several decades ago, he completely dedicated himself to painting.

Hai Tao's landscape style fully embodies the scholar painter's ideal of mountains of the mind. Hai brushes his mountains through the painstaking method of layering strokes and wash, or jimofa, that are built up over time to form strange and wonderful rock and water views. The landscapes consist of soft, intertwining, overlapping forms, void of any human existence or vegetation, as if monumental-scale scholar rocks, revered for their odd, tortured beauty. The effect is nothing like one sees in nature but it is evocative of not only the spirit of Nature but also the soul of the artist.

Hai explains that his inspirations are diverse. He not only uses the brushwork techniques of 17th Century Jinling School eccentric, Gong Xian, as a starting point but also listens to Western classical music while painting. This spiritual stirring from music is reflected in the rhythmic composition of his fantastic landscapes. The words of the Late Ming Dynasty critic, Tang Zhiqi, could be used to describe Hai's contemporary genius:

“When painting landscapes, the most important thing is to reveal the true characters of the mountains and water. Thus, the mountain will be vital as jumping, as sitting, as lifting, as bending; thereby the mountains' characters are naturally fused with that of the painter, the mountains' emotions are also fused with those of the painter...”

***Mountains Sprout to Fill the Heavens***, 2012, Detail  
ink on paper mounted as hanging scroll, 51 1/4 x 26 inches



Modern writers have praised Hai Tao's work. The Wall Street Journal art critic, Lance Esplund, described Hai's paintings:

"Swirling, silken and fluid---part Art Nouveau, part Georgia O'Keeffe and part fairy-tale ice-castle---Mr. (Hai) Tao's vistas place us floating on thin air amid crystalline mountain peaks."

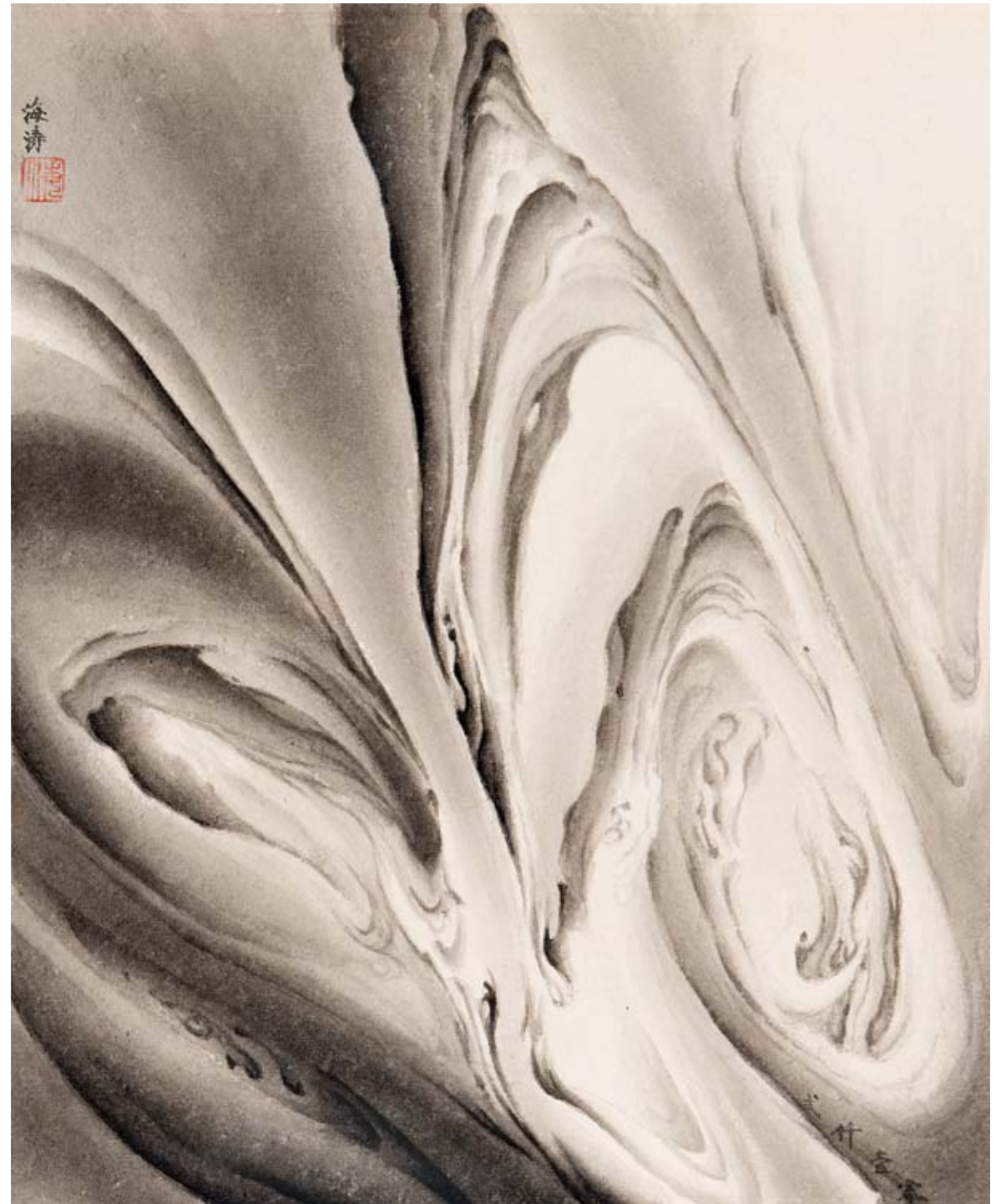
Roberta Smith, of The New York Times, wrote in response to Hai's inaugural show at M. Sutherland Fine Arts:

"For further adventures in contemporary Chinese ink painting, ...works by... Hai Tao are welcome exceptions to the garish contemporary work."

Hai Tao is currently a member of the Nanjing Painting Academy and has won numerous awards for his work in China. He has also participated in international shows in Australia and the United States. M. Sutherland Fine Arts is pleased to exhibit a selection of Hai Tao's recent works for Asia Week 2014.

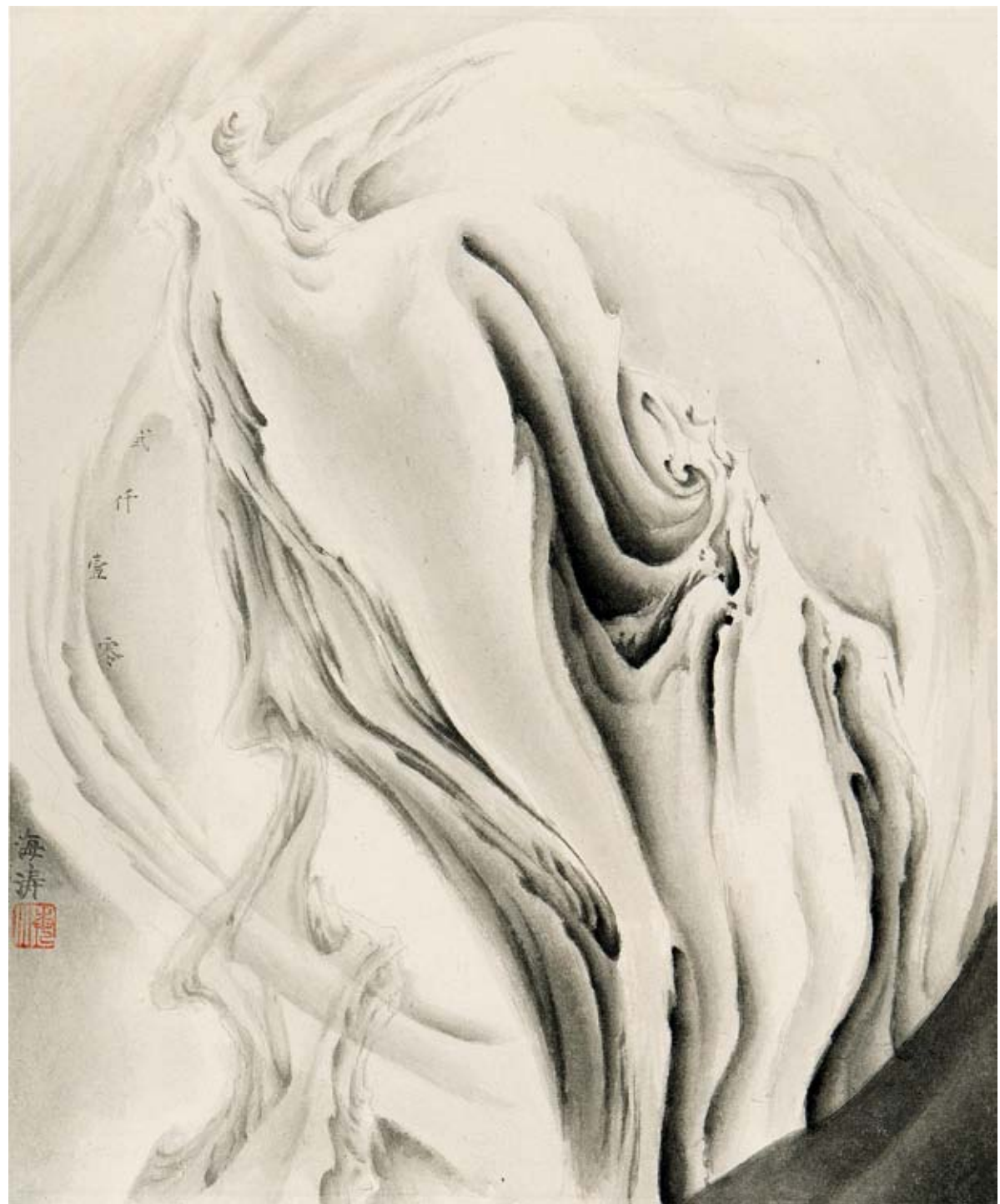
***Sound of Heaven in the Valley***, 2012, Detail  
ink on paper mounted as hanging scroll, 51 1/4 x 17 3/4 inches



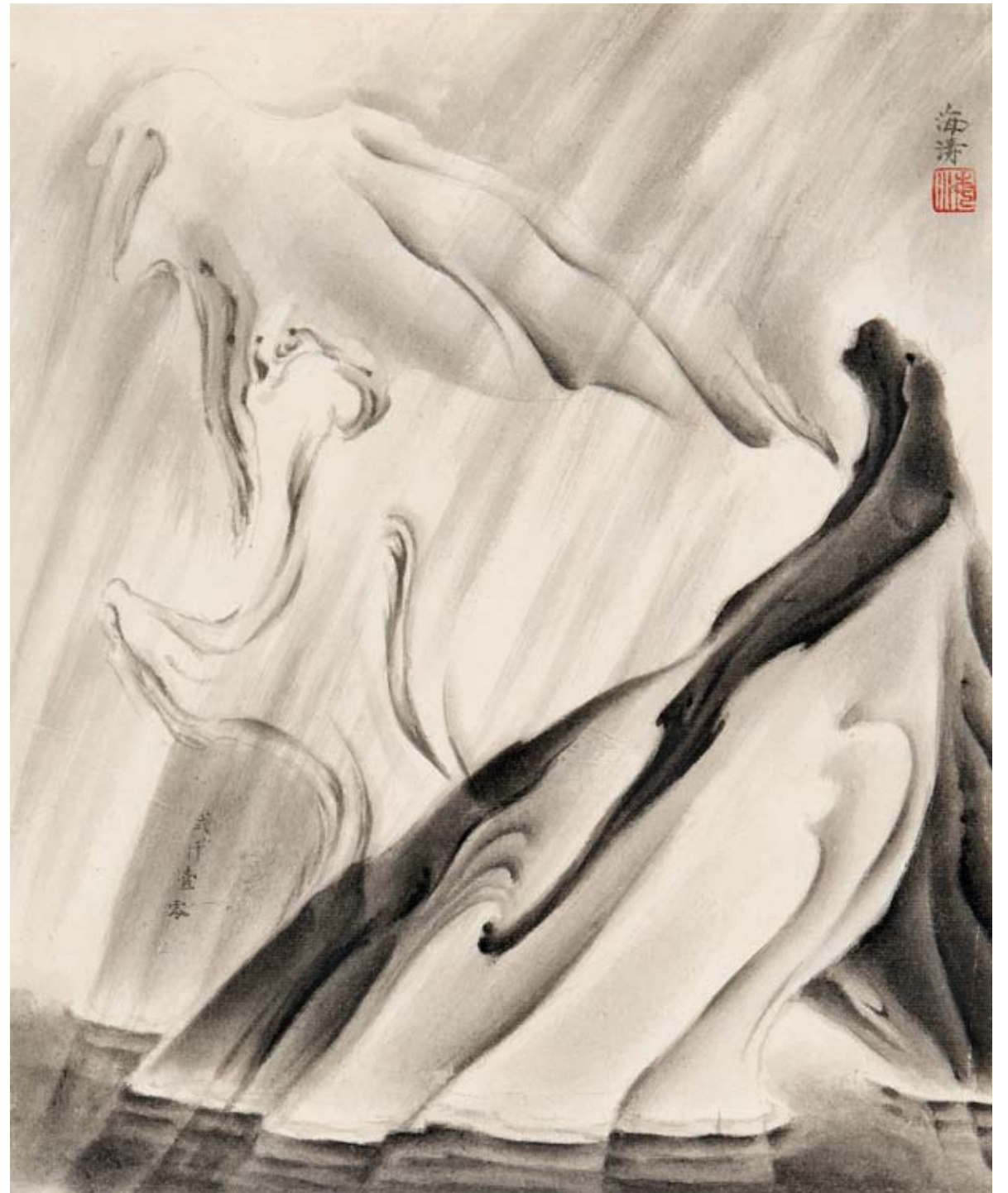


***Maelstrom***, 2010  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches



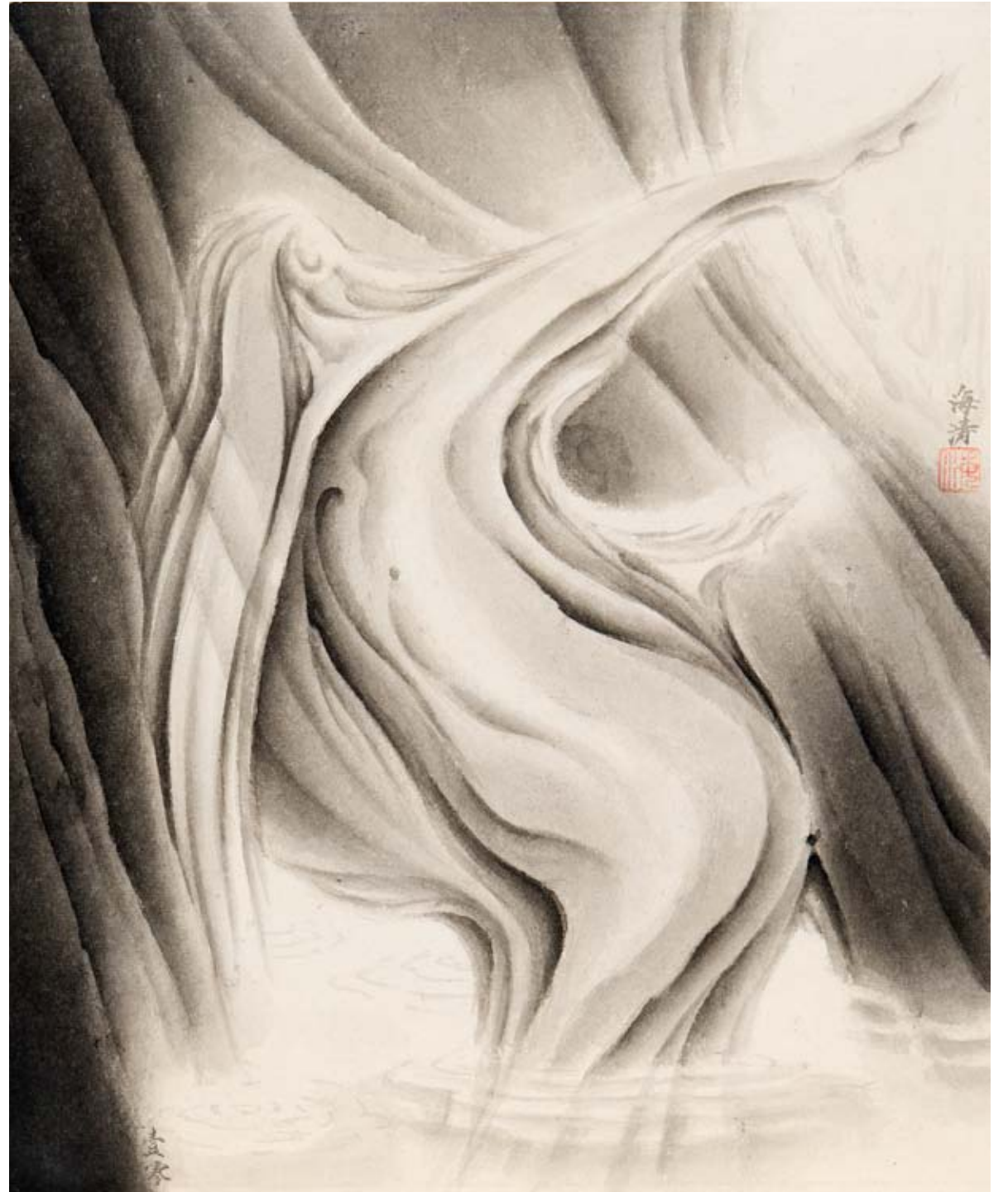


***Melodious Apparition***, 2010  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches

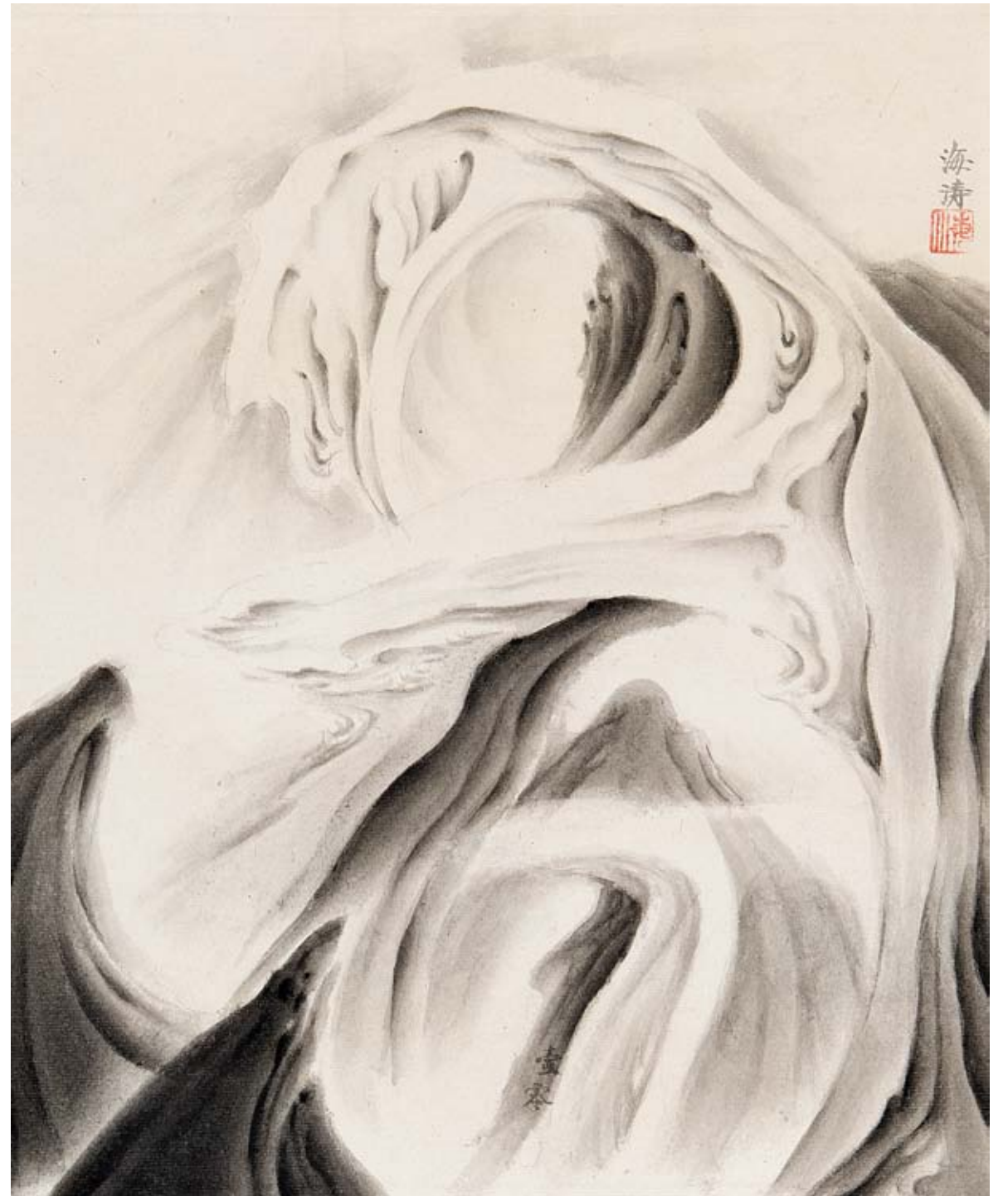


***Nature's Call***, 2010  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches



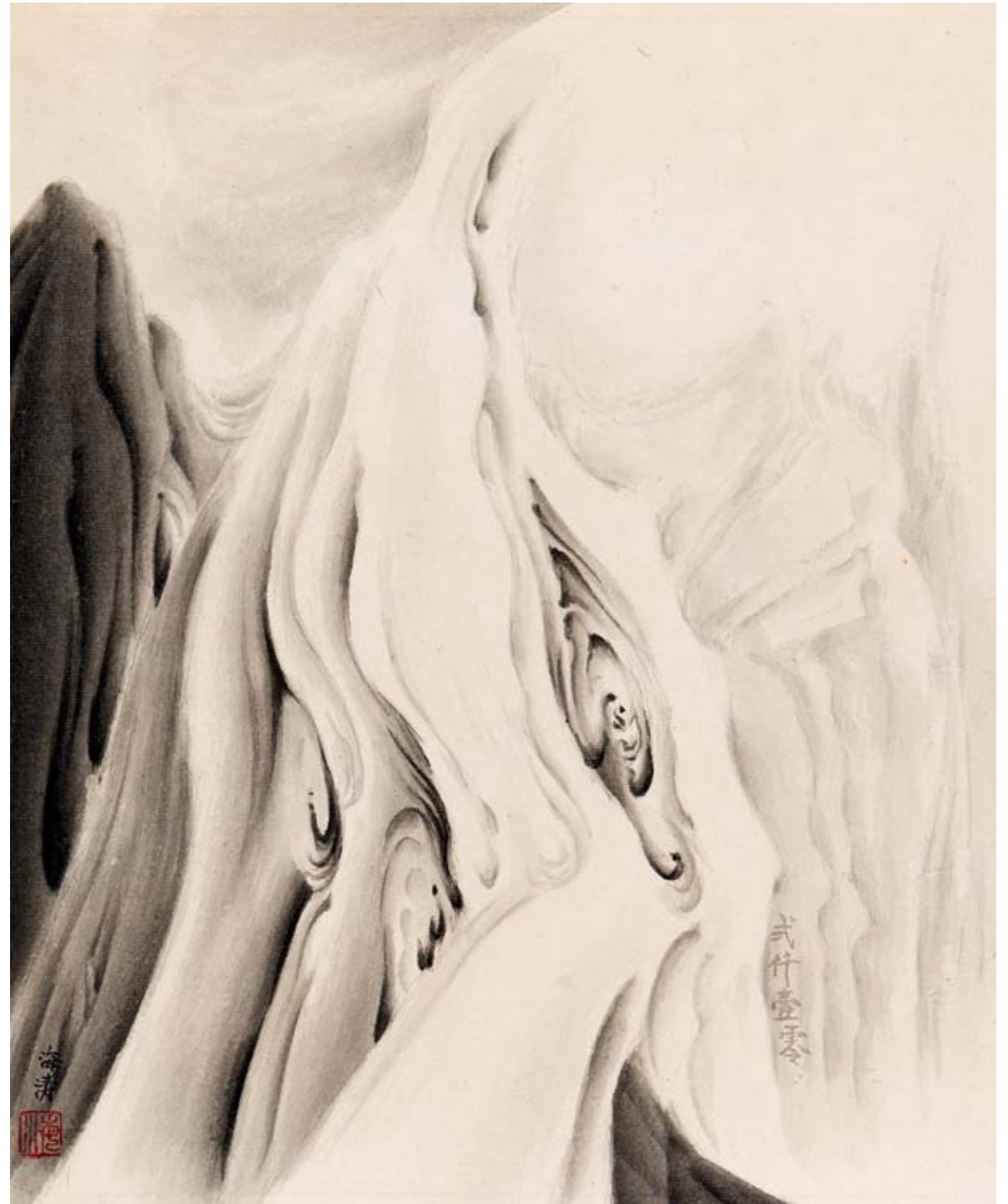


***Light of Heaven***, 2010  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches

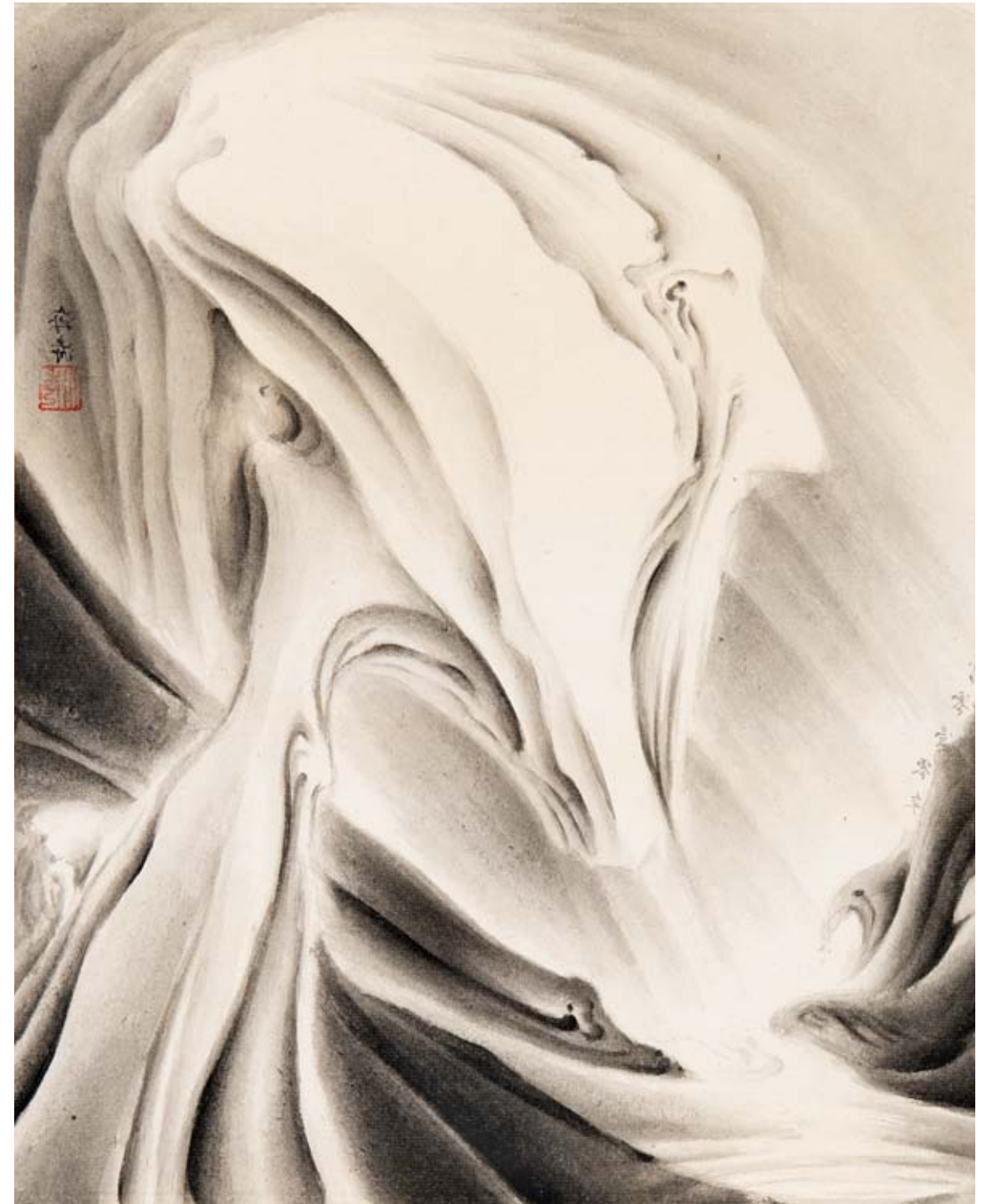


***Rising Tide***, 2010  
ink on paper, 18 1/4 x 14 inches





***Slender***, 2012  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches



***Stoic Dawn***, 2010  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches



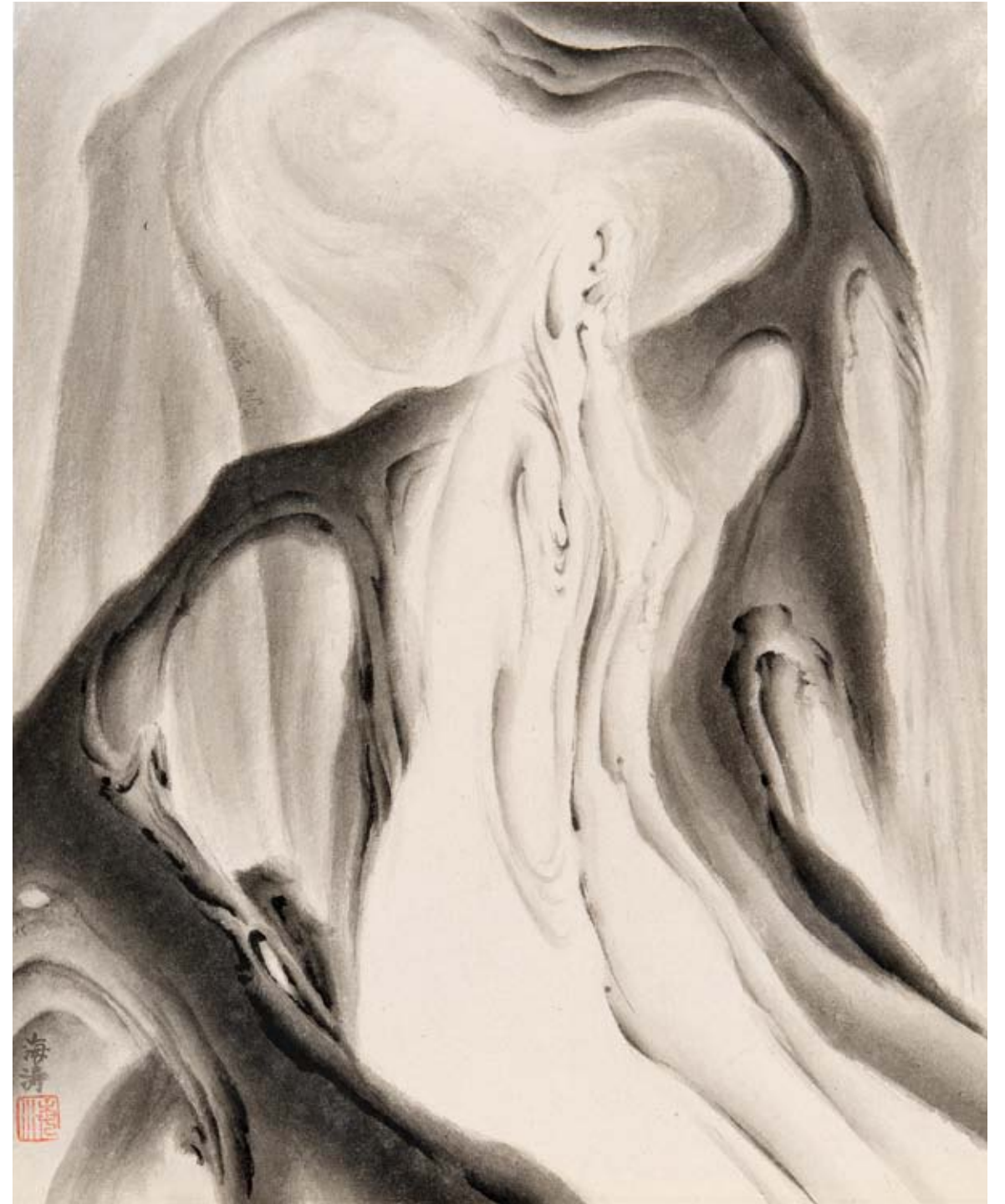


***The Watching Tree***, 2010  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches

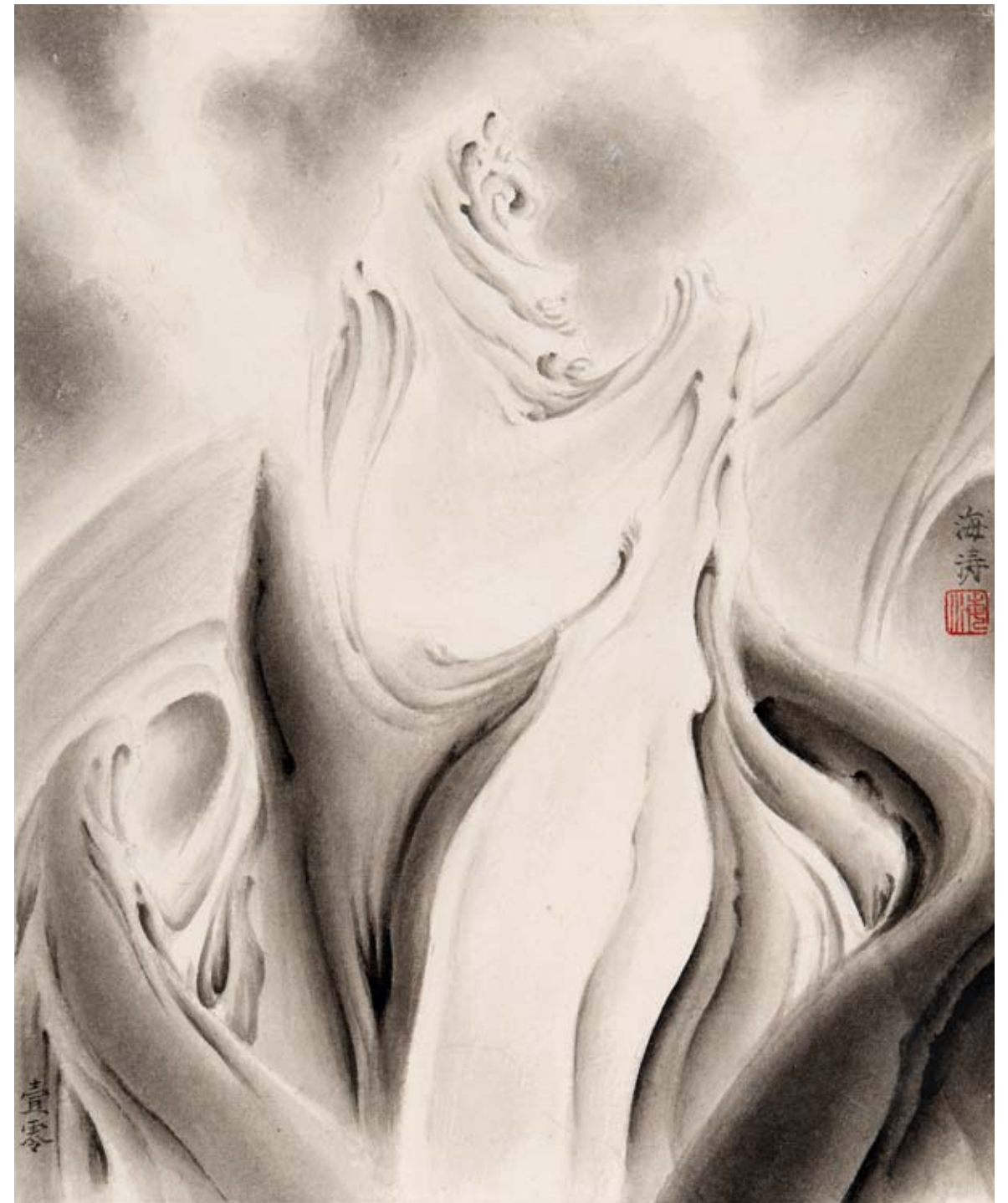


***The Pinnacle Eye***, 2010  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches





***Willowy Wisp***, 2010  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches



***Leviathan***, 2011  
ink on paper, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches



***Enlightenment in the Mountain***, 2011  
ink on paper mounted as hanging scroll, 51 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 17 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches



***Genes of the Mountain, no. 2***, 2012  
ink on paper mounted as hanging scroll, 51 1/4 x 26 inches





***Mountains Sprout to Fill the Heavens***, 2012  
ink on paper mounted as hanging scroll, 51 1/4 x 26 inches



***Sound of Heaven in the Valley***, 2012  
ink on paper mounted as hanging scroll, 51 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 17 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches

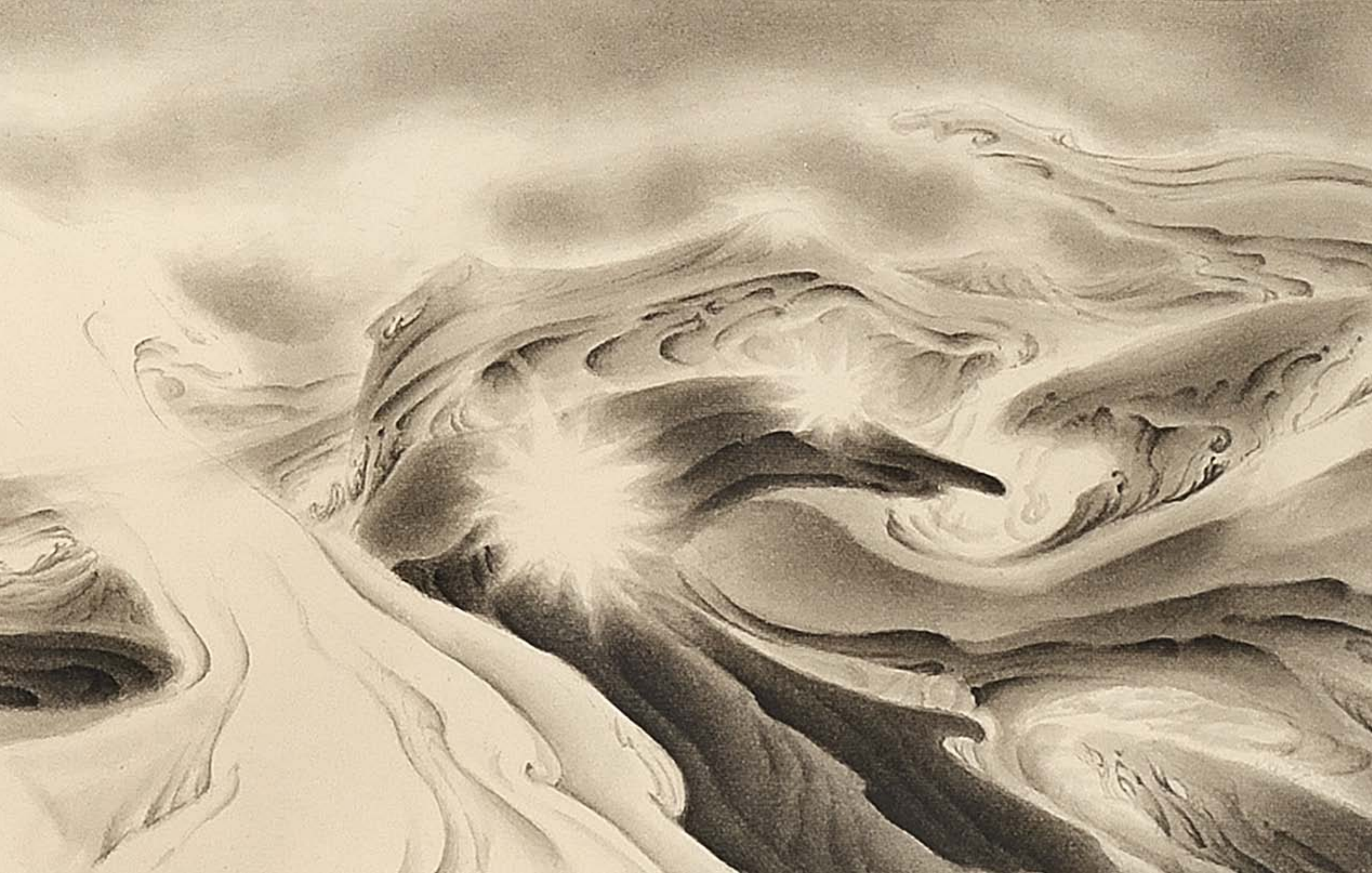






***Look Forward to Peace***, 2012  
ink on paper mounted as hand scroll, 12 x 97 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches







## Chronography

- 1959 Born in Nanjing
- 1965 Began study of classical poetry
- 1969 Began study of calligraphy and painting
- 1980 Began working as an Animation and Graphic Designer, Nanjing Film Studio
- 1982 Pompidou Art Center, Paris. Participated with of Nanjing Film Studio Animation Award-winning team
- 1984 Graduated from the Nanjing Academy of Art
- 1985-90 Traveled extensively to all the scenic mountains in China, sketching and photographing
- 1990 “Painting by Hai Tao and Lu Gaojian,” Jiangsu province, Gulou Park Gallery, Nanjing
- 1991 “Young Artists’ Works,” Group show, Jiangsu Provincial Art Gallery
- 1999-00 Won Three National Animation Film Awards for his work on three animated children’s films
- 2002 Recognized as a “Select Painter” (Te Pin Hua Jia), Jiangsu Traditional Painting Academy
- 2003 Joint Exhibition with his father, Hai Xiao (renowned calligrapher, born 1927)  
“Calligraphy and Painting by Hai Xiao and Hai Tao,” Kunshan Painting Academy, Jiangsu Province
- 2005 “Calligraphy and Painting by Hai Xiao and Hai Tao,” Sydney Art & Cultural Center, Australia
- 2007 Solo show, Wooster Art Space, “Dancing Mountains,” New York, NY  
Solo show, New York, M. Sutherland Fine Arts, Ltd. “Mountain Fantasia: Contemporary Chinese Ink Painting by Hai Tao,” New York, NY
- 2011 Solo Show, “Spirit Rock, Sacred Mountain: A Chinese View of Nature,” Baruch College, CUNY
- 2012 Group show, “Reinventing Landscape,” Baruch College, CUNY
- 2014 Solo Show, “Hai Tao: New Paintings,” M. Sutherland Fine Arts, Ltd., New York, NY