UTSA’s East Asia Institute in collaboration with the Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC), Cultural Affairs office of Taichung City, Taiwan, and the Cultural Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston is hosting the 3rd Taichung City Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition at ITC from January 16 to February 24, 2010.

This exhibition in San Antonio features 100 art pieces including crafts, sculpture, digital art, photography, printmaking, watercolor painting, oil painting, glue color painting from previous Da Dun.

Top left: Shitou-Driftwood by Yueh-Ting Chung; Ink wash painting
Bottom left: Solidness, by Shao-Chi Lo; pottery
Top: The Eternity Inside the Treasure Box of Time by Pei-Fen Tsai; lacquer
Taichung was awarded the title of World’s Best Cultural and Art City by the World Leadership Forum in 2007.

Taichung is located in central Taiwan and is famous for its rich cultural and artistic environment and has earned the name "City of Culture". It was awarded the title of World’s Best Cultural and Art City by the World Leadership Forum in 2007.

Da Dun Art Competition was established in 1996. It was originally for artists to compete on a local level, which has grown as a national competition, and now on a global scale. The purpose of this art exhibition is to boost the aura of artistic creation, to cultivate artistic talents and to promote artistic exchanges.

In addition to introducing to the American audience the works of Taiwanese artists, Taichung City hopes that an exhibition in the United States would encourage participation from American artists in future Da Dun competitions and exhibitions.

The unveiling of the Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibitions was held at ITC on January 14, 2010. The opening reception was attended by more than 150 local and international guests, including Mayor Jason Hu of Taichung City and Mark Huang, Director of the Cultural Affairs Office along with Taichung city’s 15 other representatives.

The Taiwanese delegation was greeted by Tim Gette, Director of ITC, Don Lien, Director of the East Asia Institute, and UTSA’s.

Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition features 11 categories of art work, including crafts, sculpture, digital art, photography, printmaking, watercolor painting, oil painting, and glue color painting.

competition prize winners and the winning pieces of the 2008 exhibition.

Top left: map of Taiwan (courtesy monoplanet.com)  
Bottom left: Buddhist Poem by Chi-Tsung Wu
It is our hope that this exhibition would open a door for the American audience to learn more about the latest artistic development in Taiwan, and that this art exhibition would stimulate great interest for both Taiwan and the U.S. to promote more frequent culture and art exchange," Jason Hu, mayor of Taichung City.
The following day on January 15 the four artists also graciously accepted an invitation to do a hands-on workshop at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The workshop lasted for two hours from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. and was co-sponsored by UTSA’s Art Department, the East Asia Institute and the Cultural Affairs Office of the Taichung City. The event was free and open to the public and many that attended were UTSA art professors and students. Some of the workshop attendees were students from the Chinese and the Japanese language programs at UTSA.

The Taiwanese visiting artists first conducted calligraphy and ink wash painting demonstrations and then explained the tools and techniques needed for Asian art. Afterward, the workshop participants were divided into small groups to practice writing calligraphy and doing ink wash painting.

Many of the workshop attendees participated actively and were very absorbed in the process while some were overwhelmed by the techniques. Nevertheless, the workshop was
very well received and many expressed interest in attending more workshops like this one in the future when they are offered again.

The four Taiwanese visiting artists also presented each of the workshop attendees with their hand written calligraphy or hand drawn ink wash painting as a parting gift. Some of the attendees said they were going to frame the art work while others said they would give the art work away as a gift.

During the workshop, UTSA’s president Ricardo Romo paid the artists a surprise visit. As an artist himself in photography, President Romo has been promoting art both on campus and in the community. He wanted to express his gratitude for the artists’ visiting both UTSA and ITC. President Romo presented each artist with two books, one on Texas wild flowers and the other on Texas birds.

The Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition, the hands-on calligraphy and ink wash painting workshop along with Family Day on East Asian Cultures on January 30 at ITC are a prelude to the Asian Festival to be held on February 20 in S.A. The East Asia Institute is dedicated and looking forward to bringing more educational, cultural, and art activities such as the ones from Taichung to the city of San Antonio, so stay tuned! 😄