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## A CHINESE ARTIST AT ISSAN

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**Tasting a wine arouses sensations and souvenirs totally beyond our control. Leng Hong's approach is in many ways the same as a treasure hunt. What do we feel when we swirl a wine around under our tongue? What do we feel when we make out what is hidden beneath the layers of our memory? Seeing and tasting involve the same quest for identity.**

The combination of discreet world-famous Chinese artist Leng Hong and a number of owners and ambassadors of famous wine estates at one of the best examples of 17th century architecture in the Médoc was bound to create a sophisticated event. The "Here and Elsewhere" exhibition at the Château d'Issan from 3 June to 26 July pays tribute to the painter's Bordeaux past, and the organising association, "Escalaes", is enjoying this intimate preview to the full.

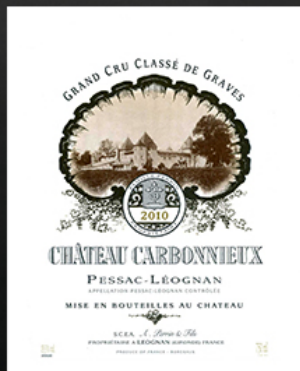
Art slips into the conversation without detracting from the great wines served during the excellent dinner: Bollinger RD 1999 champagne, Corton Vergennes Grand Cru 2009 Paul Chanson cuvee, Château d'Issan 2005, Château Latour 1996, and Château Climens 2006 for a superb finish. Leng Hong lives in Montreal and Shanghai, his native city, but France has a special place in his heart.

*The enigmatic "Blue Mountain" theme is probably the most recurrent feature of Leng Hong's work.*

After qualifying in the Art Department of the Shanghai Theatre Academy and teaching traditional painting at the Chinese Painting Institute in Shanghai, he left for Europe and came to Bordeaux. He lost his suitcase in transit via Paris, and since he spoke no French at the time, he drew a sketch for the airport officials – no doubt his first still life in France. He worked in Bordeaux until 1992, when he accepted a residency in Montreal, leaving behind him an aura maintained by a small number of initiates.

Since he completed a large fresco at Expo 2010 Shanghai China, his work has increased in value. He remains discreet about this taboo subject, steering the conversation towards his work as a cultural go-between and his “immense joy at returning to Bordeaux, being invited here, being wanted here. The majestic architecture and surroundings of the chateau inspired me straight away and made me want to work. I feel there is much in common between my paintings and the imposing architecture of Château d'Issan, and I think that this is the perfect place for an exhibition, as there is so much of the past here.” During the evening, the emotions suggested by the wines and the vision of Leng Hong's paintings will definitely have created something special.

### Emmanuel Cruse Château d'Issan



### The guests





Virginie and Emmanuel Cruse – Château d'Issan. Guests surrounding Chinese artist Leng Hong. Kelley and Edouard Moueix – Châteaux La Fleur Pétrus, Belair-Monange, Trotanoy. Leng Hong with Danièle Hardouin and Pascale Rousseau ('Escalaes' association) and Sébastien Bardinet (Château Corbin). Didier and Florence Cuvelier – Château Léoville Poyferré. Photo call with Leng Hong. Eric and Isabelle Perrin – Château Carbonnieux.

#### REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN

#### Issan – an architectural jewel

Leng Hong's work has a hypnotic effect, doubtless produced by the painting method used. The aim of the successive layers is to falsely bury souvenirs in the deepest part of the memory. And hence to lay them bare.

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