

ART & THE CITY

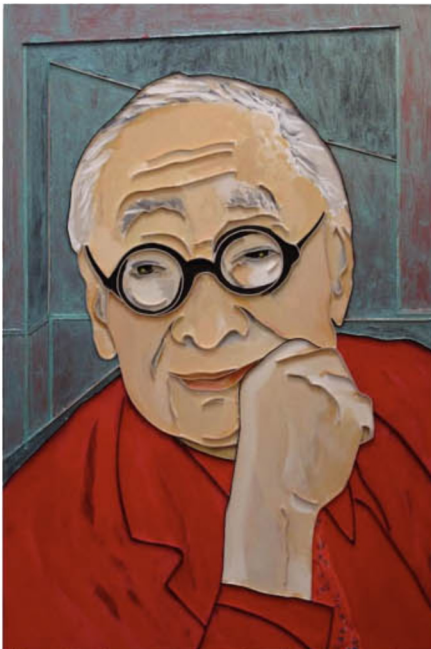
ABOUT FACES BY LEE WAISLER



For his second solo exhibition in Hong Kong, California-based American painter Lee Waisler presents a series of portraits of historical and contemporary figures at the Sundaram Tagore Gallery Hong Kong.

Waisler is known for his socially and politically charged works that deal with the Holocaust, Vietnam War and the civil rights movement. His works soon began to reflect his growing interest in Eastern philosophy, and accordingly, became increasingly abstract. It was after Waisler's journey to India in the mid-90s that his works moved toward figuration and away from pure abstraction.

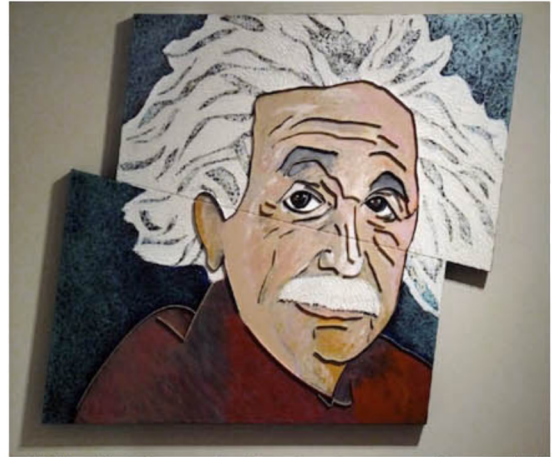
In this latest series, he offers a global group of iconic individuals—Albert Einstein, Kafka, Marilyn Monroe, I.M. Pei and Liu Xiaobo among them—all of whom have played an important role in shaping the modern world.



Lee Waisler, I.M. Pei, 2010, Acrylic and wood on canvas, 48 x 32 inches

About Faces is a collection of "dimensional portraits" that combine strips of wood and blocks of colour to create finely nuanced faces and figures. The laminated wood over his drawn lines adds a 3D factor that enhances the finished work, creating small walls between different areas of the face and casting slight shadows.

Organic materials are then added that hold symbolic value: sand for time, wood for life, and glass for light. The result is an impactful, tactile study of the faces, all of which are cultural icons of the 20th century.



Lee Waisler, Einstein, 2010, Acrylic and wood on canvas, 38.5 x 40.5 inches

Waisler's work aims to achieve a likeness that reflects the life of the subject, the way in which life has formed and deformed them. These are paintings of human beings that remind us how a single individual can bring about change in society.



Kafka with Orange Tie, 2009, Acrylic on wood on canvas, 48 x 36 inches

The 'About Faces' exhibition runs from 16 February to 13 March 2011 (Monday - Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sundays 11am - 7pm).

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