



## DREAMSCAPES

### CHINESE BRUSHWORK BY BARBARA LEVINE

Barbara Levine's elegant and poetic landscapes are the expressions of a Western sensibility thoroughly versed in the ancient principles of Chinese and Japanese art.

Barbara is a resident of Old Greenwich, CT and was an art major at Syracuse University before earning a degree in occupational therapy at Columbia University. She spent the first three years of her marriage in Japan in the 1950's, where she studied the Japanese ink painting style known as sumi-e. After returning to the U.S., she studied Western art for several years at the Art Students' League.

A decade ago, her studies with Diana Kan, a life-long painter and protégé of the renowned 20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese painter Zhang Daqian, introduced her to Zhang's work. Through a rigorous study of the complex philosophy and theory underlying his work and methodology, Barbara began to apply these techniques, including Po Mo, which literally means a pouring or splashing of ink and paints. Po Mo was revived in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Zhang, and was inspired by paintings of early Tang Dynasty artists.

Her current work includes both traditional oriental brush work and the more abstract and impressionist technique of Po Mo. Barbara imbues her Po Mo style paintings with the Chinese "liang" (a visual perception of light) or radiance. These are created with inks, ground Chinese minerals and watercolors on silk, rice paper, or gold boards. With the latter, the veiled gold background imparts a romantically magical glow to each painting. Her paintings express not only the brilliant effect of both light and color, but also a vibrancy and harmony of brushwork and composition.

She is a member of the Oriental Brush Artists' Guild, the Sumi-e Society of America and the Greenwich Art Society and is on the Collections Committee of the Bennington (VT) Museum. Her work has been juried into national and international shows, including awards at both the prestigious National and International Sumi-e Society shows. Her paintings are in private collections in Vermont, New York and London.