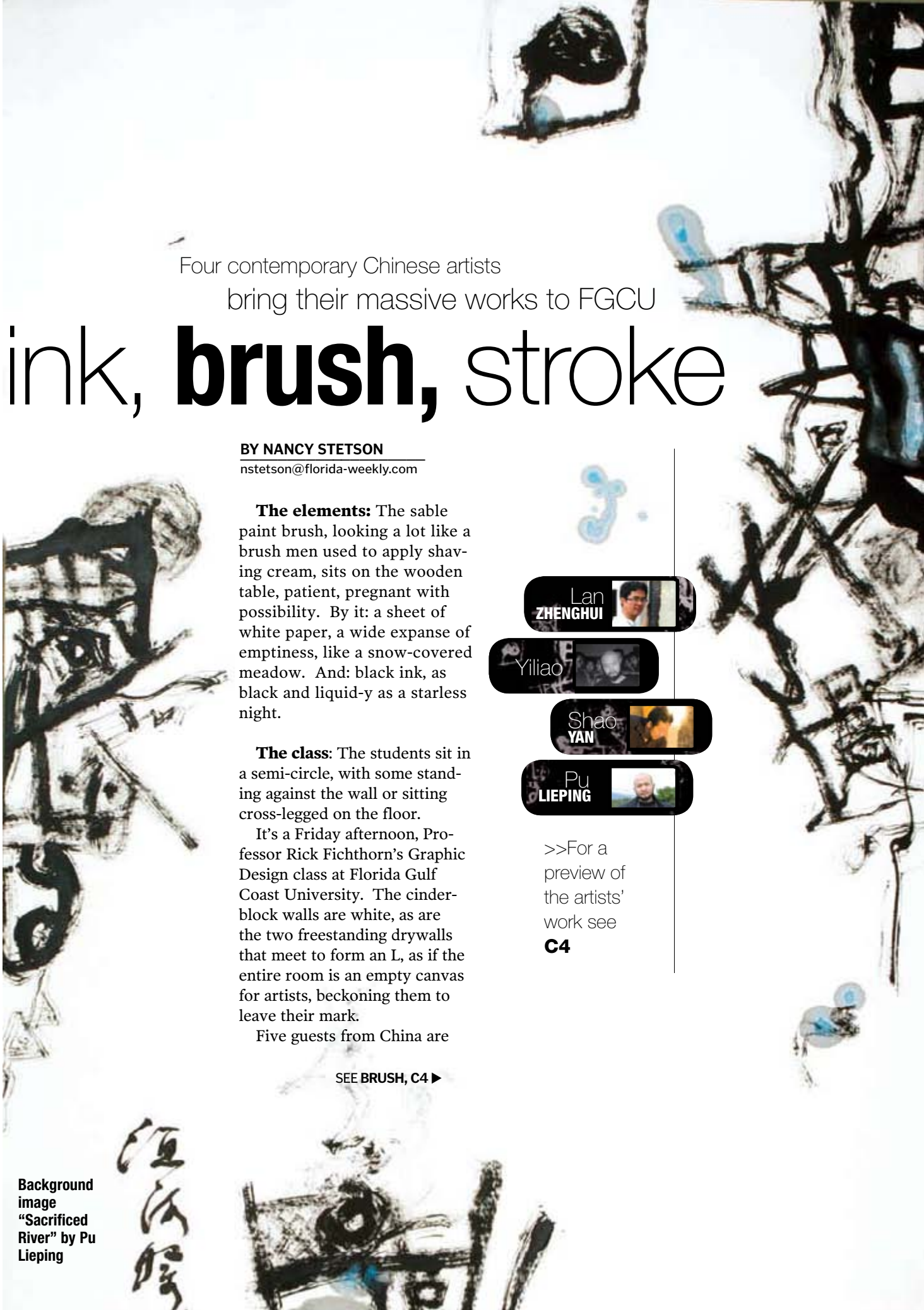


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF JANUARY 17-23, 2008 A GUIDE TO THE GREATER FORT MYERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



Four contemporary Chinese artists bring their massive works to FGCU

ink, brush, stroke

BY NANCY STETSON
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The elements: The sable paint brush, looking a lot like a brush men used to apply shaving cream, sits on the wooden table, patient, pregnant with possibility. By it: a sheet of white paper, a wide expanse of emptiness, like a snow-covered meadow. And: black ink, as black and liquid-y as a starless night.

The class: The students sit in a semi-circle, with some standing against the wall or sitting cross-legged on the floor.

It's a Friday afternoon, Professor Rick Fichthorn's Graphic Design class at Florida Gulf Coast University. The cinder-block walls are white, as are the two freestanding drywalls that meet to form an L, as if the entire room is an empty canvas for artists, beckoning them to leave their mark.

Five guests from China are

SEE BRUSH, C4 ▶



>>For a preview of the artists' work see C4

Background image "Sacrificed River" by Pu Lieping

WEEK at-a-glance



No doubt

"Doubt: A Parable," playing at the Florida Repertory Theatre "is as good as theater gets," says Florida Weekly's theater critic Nancy Stetson. C8 ▶



The Man in Black

"Ring of Fire — The Music of Johnny Cash." hits the stage at the Barbara B. Mann hall next week. C15 ▶



To Sir With Love

Sir Sidney Poitier will speak at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21. C6 ▶

Cantors hold American premier in Fort Myers

Special to Florida Weekly

The Gulf Coast Symphony presents "Cantors: A Faith in Song" on Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Conceived as a PBS special, this show has toured internationally and nationally, and makes its first appearance in Southwest Florida. This is also the American Premiere of the full orchestra version of the show, which has only been heard in Europe.

The concert features three of the worlds greatest living Cantors: Benzion Miller from New York, Alberto Mizrahi from Chicago, and Naftali Herstik, from Israel, where he is the Cantor at the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem. The concert is a joyous mixture

if you go

>> **What:** "Cantors: A Faith in Song" When: Sunday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m.
>> **Where:** Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall Cost: \$25-\$50; Children under 18 Half Price
>> **Information:** Call 481-4849, online at www.gulfcoastsymphony.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the Barbara B. Mann Theater box office.

of Jewish, Yiddish, Cantorial and secular music set to soaring new orchestra scores by the great Jewish composer and arranger Benedict Weisser. Gulf Coast Symphony

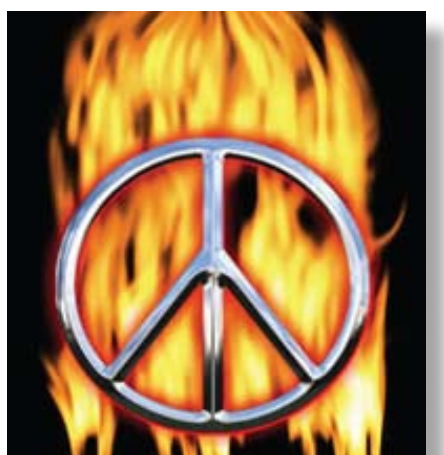


COURTESY PHOTO

The Cantors perform worldwide.

Maestro Andrew Kurtz has been the tour conductor for the show since 2004 and he

SEE CANTORS C12 ▶



Peace and Flambé

A unique event in downtown Fort Myers is filled with art, music and surprises. C16 ▶