



# THE NEW YORKER

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## GALLERIES-CHELSEA

### HONG LEI

In a show titled "Transmitting the Ancient," this Chinese artist pokes gentle fun at traditional still-life painting and the objects of Zen contemplation. Layering artifice upon artifice, he photographs pine, bamboo, or pomegranate branches hanging from threads against blank white studio backdrops and surrounded by a constellation of suspended fake flies and butterflies. Other still-lives, in muted black-and-white, zero in on individual objects: a mushroom, a lotus pod, a stuffed turtledove, a tiny silver carp, a branch with plum blossoms. Part satire, part homage, the work is witty, charming, and shrewdly understated. Through June 3. (Chambers, 210 Eleventh Ave. 212-414-1169.)