

**Artist:** Jessie Y. Lee ([www.JessieLeeFineArts.com](http://www.JessieLeeFineArts.com))

**Title:** Tung Flower with Hakka Spirit (18X24 Oil on Canvas)



Hakka (客家) is one of the major ethnic groups of Chinese who have gone through several episodes of migration from their origins in northern China into southern China during periods of civil war dating back as far as two thousand years ago. They call themselves the “Guest Family” while maintaining a unique culture and language spoken natively by the Hakka people throughout southern China, Taiwan, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and in overseas Chinese around the world.

The major migration of Hakka people to Taiwan occurred about five hundred years ago. Most of them have settled in northern Taiwan with dense Tung tree plantations. The snow-white Tung blossoms can be seen all over the hills and forest around the Hakka villages in April to May. The Hakka Tung Blossom Festival was established in 2002. Thousands of visitors have been attracted to enjoy the amazing floral beauty and at the same time experience the many intriguing aspects of Hakka culture.