

Xiang Li / 李湘

The Forbidden City of Beijing, China / 中国北京故宫博物院

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Objectives

Since 1974, I have specialized in the reproduction and restoration of ancient Chinese paintings as well as original designs for characters, floral and landscape paintings at various scales. During 35 years of experience working at the Forbidden City of Beijing, I gained a wide array of skills as curator and administrator. Since 2012 I began working on the Chinese Empresses collection featuring over 200 empresses throughout Chinese history. This collection will debut at JMAC in Worcester (May 22 – June 9, 2024).

Exhibits and Displays

- The Evolution of Chinese Dragons, and Chinese Empresses, **Harvard Museums**, February 29, 2024
- The Chinese Empresses Collection, **JMAC**, May 22 – June 9, 2024
- A Selection of Chinese Guanyin and Watercolor Paintings, The 21st Annual Asian Festival, **Southeast Asian Coalition** of Central MA, June 2024
- Chinese Guanyin, **ArtsWorcester** The 12th Annual One, July – August 2024
- A Selection of Chinese Guanyin and Watercolor Paintings, **Krikorian Gallery, Worcester Center for Crafts** - Artists on Fire (The Smalls Show), July – August 2024
- The Chinese Empresses Wearable Art Fashion Show, **ValleyCAST**, September 5, 2024

Experience

Silk Watercolor Artist 2012 - Present

- In 2012, Li began working on the most artistically and technically challenging collection, [Chinese Empresses](#). This collection features over 200 empresses from Chinese history. Li spent two decades researching the stories of these women leaders, and how they have dramatically impacted and shaped Chinese history.

Professional Artist, The Forbidden City of Beijing, China 1974 - 2011

- Specialized in reproduction and restoration of ancient Chinese art ranging from the Sui, Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming, Qing Dynasties (see a list of references below); Studied art education, art history and the connoisseurship

Art Director, Railway Corp of the People's Liberation Army of China 1969 - 1974

- Specialized in art creation and direction. Participated and ranked highly in national art exhibitions and competitions. Designed and painted for executive reports and national newspapers

Exhibitions, Awards, Newspapers, Magazines and Books

- Personal art exhibition presented at "The Chinese Cultural Art Exhibition". Granada University, Spain, 1988
- Artworks presented at "The Chinese Cultural Art Exhibition". Singapore, 1988
- Artworks presented at "The Qin Emperor's 60-year Anniversary" art exhibition. Thailand, 1987



- Awarded one of the “20 Most Talented People of China”
- Presenter at the 4th World Women Conference on “The Glamour of Asian Women in Chinese Arts”
- Appraisal from Zhou Ruchang (周汝昌), the most recognized classical literature researcher, poet for the Dreams of the Red Chamber, China Daily, 1985
- Appraisal from Wang Meng (王蒙), Minister of the China Department of Culture, at the Dreams of the Red Chamber Expo, China
- Featured in the Glamour of the Eastern Women Magazine (东方女性风采)
- Featured in The Footsteps of the 20 Most Successful People in China (成功者的足迹)
- “The Unusual 10 Years” (十年辛苦不寻常) by Zhou Cezong (周策纵), The New Evening News, China (新晚报)
- “Li spent 5 years completing the “The Flower Gods” (太虚幻境图), Xin Ming Daily, China (新明日报)
- Guang Ming Daily (光明日报)
- “From The Flower Gods to the Dreams of the Red Chamber” by Zhou Ruchang, China (“从百花神到红楼梦四百人物全赏” , 周汝昌评论)
- Featured in The Best of Chinese Culture and Arts, China (中国文化之最)
- Featured in China News (中国新闻, 中国新闻社)
- Featured Granada News, Spain (西班牙各那拉大地区新闻)
- Featured in Guangxi Daily Newspaper, China (广西日报)
- Featured in Worker’s Daily Newspaper, China (工人日报)
- Featured in The Weekly Newspaper, Taiwan (周报)
- Featured in Life Consultation Newspaper, China (生活参谋报)
- Featured in Star Daily, Singapore

Design Portfolio

- Dreams of the Red Chamber - 红楼梦人物 (1975 - 1985)

“This collection demonstrates 413 characters from the Dreams of the Red Chamber, one of China’s Four Great Classical Novels. Li is also known as the first person who ever completed this collection of artworks. Li appeared many times on the radio and on television, as well as in magazine and newspaper articles. She was named one of the “20 Most Talented People of China” (成功的足迹). The Beijing Radio Station also produced a special program dedicated to Li’s outstanding artistic talent. Zhou Cezong (周策纵), Dreams of the Red Chamber Association chairman and critic, tenured professor in the Department of Asian Studies at the UWM, wrote an article for Li titled “The Unusual 10 Years” (十年辛苦不寻常). Recognized by the State, Li decided to donate the entire collection of “The Dream of Red Chamber” paintings to the Grand View Garden (大观园) in Beijing. This collection of artworks attract visitors from around the world every day.”
- The Flower Gods - 红楼梦百花神/太虚幻境图 (1975 - 1985)

“The Flower Gods was completed at the same time as the Dreams of Red Chamber collection. It is 12 meters long (39 feet) and recognized by some of the most well-known art critics in China including: Fan Zeng (范增), Dong Shouping (董寿平), Zhou Ruchang (周汝昌). Li was also introduced to Pu Jie (the last emperor Pu Yi’s brother) who wrote a letter to praise Li’s accomplishment and dedication.”
- Character, Floral and Landscape Designs (1985 - present)



"Li spent the past 30 years designing various paintings for individual clients and enterprise corporations in China and around the world. Guanyin and Buddhists designs are among the most popular and requested artworks by Li. These designs at various scales are displayed at museums, luxurious hotels, restaurants and offices. Li has also given many of her paintings as gifts to educational institutions."

References for Ancient Painting Reproduction and Restoration

(Li single-handedly completed the reproductions of following paintings while working at the Forbidden City of Beijing, China. These paintings were displayed at national museums around the world)

- **Zhan Guo Dynasty Art (战国):**

- 无名氏 (Anonymous)
Emperor Riding the Dragon (御龙帛画)

- **Han Dynasty Art (汉朝):**

- 无名氏 (Anonymous)
Chang Sha Ma Wang Dui (长沙马王堆帛画)
Qiu Ci Mural (龟兹壁画)

- **Sui Dynasty Art (隋朝):**

- 展子虔 (Zhan Ziqian)
Spring Excursion (游春图)

- **Dong Jin Dynasty Art (东晋):**

- 顾恺之 (Gu Kaizhi)
Luo Shen Fu (洛神赋)
Housewife (列女传)

- **Tang Dynasty Art (唐朝):**

- 顾宏中 (Gu Hongzhong)
Night of Revelry at Huan Xizai's House (韩熙载夜宴)
- 周文矩 (Zhou Wenju)
Scholars of the Glazed Pavilion (琉璃堂人物图)
Literary Gathering (文苑图)
In the Place (宫乐图)
Playing Chess Behind Double Screens (重屏会棋图)
- 黄筌 (Huang Huan)
Study of Birds and Other Creatures (写生珍禽图)
Flower and Butterfly (海棠夹蝶)
- 韩偓 (Han Huang)
Five Oxen (五牛图)
- 孙位 (Sui Wei)



Seven Sages (高逸图)

- 韩干 (Han Gan)
 - Walking a Horse (御马图)
 - Illumining the Night (招夜白图卷)
- 周肪 (Zhou Fang)
 - Ladies Wearing Flowers in Their Hair (簪花仕女图)
 - Ladies Lounging the Summer Away (调琴啜茗图)
- 张萱 (Zhang Xuan)
 - Ladies Preparing Newly Woven Silk (捣练图)
 - Lady of Guo State on a Spring Outing (虢国夫人游春图)
- 卢楞迦 (Lu Lengjia)
 - Album of Six Aryas (六尊者)
- 阎立本 (Yan Liben)
 - Ancient Emperors (历代帝王图)
- 无名氏 (Anonymous)
 - Pandaravasini (白衣观音)
 - Fu Xi and Nu Wa (伏羲和女娲)
 - Horse Grazing (万马图)
 - Dunhuang Frescoes (敦煌壁画)

• **Song Dynasty (宋朝):**

- 张择端 (Zhang Zeduan)
 - Along the River During the Qingming Festival (清明上和图)
- 王矩正 (Wang Juzheng)
 - Spinning Wheel Diagram (纺车图)
- 宋徽宗 (Song Huizong)
 - Hibiscus Golden Pheasant (芙蓉锦鸡)
 - Blessings of Permission Trees (伯柿如意)
- 李公麟 (Li Gonglin)
 - Vimalakirti's Teaching (维摩演教)
 - The Riding Diagram (人骑图)
 - The Nine Songs (九歌图)
- 陈容 (Chen Rong)
 - The Dragon (龙图)
 - Nine Dragons (九龙图)
- 王希孟 (Wang Ximeng)
 - Magnificent Mountain and River (千里江山)
- 所松 (Suo Song)
 - The Magical Dragon (神龙图)
- 梁楷 (Liang Kai)



The Pocket He-Shang (布袋和尚)

- 李唐 (Li Tang)

The Plucking Figures (采薇图)

- 无名氏 (Anonymous)

Ten Thousand-Mile Mountain and River (万里江山)

Goya Guqin (伯牙鼓琴)

Eighty-Seven Gods (八十七神仙卷)

500 Rohan (500 罗汉)

The Daicheng Bird standing on Bamboo (幽黄戴胜)

宋人册页多张

• Ming Dynasty (明朝) :

- 周臣 (Zhou Chen)

Riding in the Spring (春山游骑图)

- 唐寅 (Tang Yan)

The Four Beauties (四美图)

- 徐渭 (Xu Wei)

Flowers and Birds (大写意花鸟图)

- 陈洪绶 (Chen Hongshou)

The People (人物图)

Lotus Yuanyang (荷花鸳鸯图)

- 无名氏 (Anonymous)

Fahai Temple Mural (法海寺壁画)

• Yuan Dynasty (元朝) :

- 赵孟赋 (Zhao Mengfu)

Horse Shower Diagram (浴马图)

The Riding Diagram (人骑图)

- 任仁发 (Ren Renfa)

Two Horses (二马图)

The Departure (出圉图)

- 无名氏 (Anonymous)

The Eternity Mural (永乐宫壁画)

The Female God (女仙图)

• Qing Dynasty (清朝) :

- 郎士宁 (Lang Shining)

Emperor's Horse-riding (乾隆皇帝骑马图)

The Concubine Makeup Diagram (香妃戎装图)

The Concubine Funeral Diagram (香妃葬花图)



- 任伯年 (Ren Bonian)
 - Huan Shen Figures (黄慎人物)
 - Cold Plum (冷梅)
 - The Ladies (仕女图)
- 无名氏 (Anonymous)
 - Myriad Return to One (万法归一)
 - The War (战图)
 - The Ten Beauties (十美图)

- **Modern Art (近代):**

Li helped restore and reproduce paintings from some of the best-known artists of modern times including: Zhang Daqian (张大千), Xu Beihong (徐悲鸿), Fan Zeng (范增), Song Wenzhi (宋文志), Wang Xuetao (王雪涛), Guan Ming (关明), Qian Songyan (钱松岩) and Fu Baoshi (傅抱石).