

CHINESE NEW IMMIGRANT FEMALE ARTIST

WENYUN HUA OPENS UP A NEW WORLD FOR CAREER IN ISOLATION

Special report by Qian Zeng, Ming Pao, August 11, 2004

When you come into the Mandolin Art Studio, Chinese style music “Twelve Flower Melody” is waving (ranging) in the air; Just like the *Mandolin Landscapes* hanged on the wall; Two golden fish is swimming in the bamboo vase bottle on the desk, mindless reflecting the marks of inks..... In the year of 1999, Wenyun Hua came into Canada in isolation as independent immigrant. She insisted to work on her art in this studio and expected to have dream and career both come out in the new country.

Now at XEXE Gallery at Queen West gallery district, from August 19 to September 19, *Mandolin Landscapes* by Chinese new immigrant female artist Wenyun Hua will be held there. In eighteen contract-signed artists, Wenyun is the only Chinese artist.

The interview is started from Wenyun’s *Mandolin Landscapes* solo artshow. Mandolin is a Chinese pear shaped music instrument, from 18th Italy. Wenyun said, as early as she was studying Chinese Painting, she got the creative inspiration from this name. Even she never saw the real Mandolin instrument, Mandolin means a meditation landscape for her. Thus she draw forest piece by piece with brushes, using blue, green, white etc. to produce Mandolin Landscapes.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION FROM THE ARTWORK

Wenyun attended her first show at 2004 Toronto Art Expo at Metro Toronto Convention Centre this March. Some of her Mandolin Landscapes specially attracted Canadians—very special style, known from eastern. Many people were even curious for the materials for the artwork. Although Wenyun used the genuine Chinese brush painting materials to produce her artwork: rice paper, Chinese brushes, and Chinese watercolour; She applied western structure and skills into the artwork; It brought out a very special and strong colour. Her landscape is close to Canada, but the tune, meaning and feeling is Chinese. This special Mandolin Landscapes gained her first solo art show at XEXE Gallery in Toronto.

Wenyun gained the Master Degree of Chinese Painting from Nanjing Normal University in 1994 China. For pursuing experienced life and freedom, she came to Canada by alone. This slim and fragile girl just like other new immigrants, experienced through adapting herself to new circumstance, searching jobs, losing jobs and many joys and sorrows of life. With strong and optimistic heart,

she still insists her projected goal – go in for art creative work and educational work.

In the early of immigrant, Wenyun did three months research for resources of communities and Toronto. She understood how hard and difficult to be a new immigrant, she decided to start from jobs related to art. With good English and art skills, she did over three years graphic art work, changed several companies till was laid off last year. She opened the Mandolin Art Studio, gradually made her dream of art creation and teaching become true.

COMBINATION OF ADVANTAGES BOTH IN CHINESE AND WESTERN ART EDUCATION

Wenyun said, living at mid-west of downtown Toronto, most of her students are children or adults from local Canadian families. She teaches Chinese brushing painting, calligraphy, paper-cutting and engraving-chop to various students, mindlessly it became a bridge between Chinese and western art education.

She teaches in small groups with maximum four students each class, to guarantee the most effective development of each student. The most emphasis point is she teaches by students personal talent, arousing their creative idea, not just let them do copies from samples. Her instruction combined the advantages of Chinese and western art education.

Recently, Wenyun won the Art Education Project Grant from Ontario Art Council. The grant is used for opening Chinese Art Education programs, opening to children from grade 3 to 12; they will learn the multicultural knowledge and art skills based on Chinese brush painting, calligraphy, paper-cutting and patterns. Students should pay \$10 for registration and pay what they can for tuition; the money will go for art materials, ad and other administration expenses. Welcome children from new immigrant families to come and try this non-profit project. For any inquiry please dial at 416-536-7116.

Note for photo:

Wenyun Hua and Her Mandolin Landscapes

photographed by Qian Zeng