



Explore Artist Renqiu Liu: The Journey of Study

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(Canada Cultural Relics Research Foundation / Ruhui Xu Musical Foundation)

Keywords: Liu Renqiu, Artist, Painting, Career

To seek better knowledge and understanding of the art of painting by Renqiu Liu, I have to trace from his name first. “Ren” means “responsibility and long way to go”, “Qiu” means “endless studying”, “Renqiu” is the very proper word to cap his painting career, walking in the division of learning from the ancestors, from nature, from your own heart. First saw Mr. Liu and his art works, I was impressed and shocked by his personality of joy and uninhibited, the atmosphere, arrogance and moral integrity, secondly is attracted by his diversity and mixed Chinese and Western elements in revealing his style, and his profound knowledge of painting, world-class vision and superb technical and artistic skill, form “Liu style,” and finally you can’t help to explore the journey of his artistic career.

1. Early stage of the journey of study

Mr. Liu, Renqiu was born in Hunan Province, China, a scholarly family, under the tutelage of his grandfather to learn painting and calligraphy since his childhood. He had great impact by education and edification of traditional Chinese culture. In 1965, Liu apprentice in Shaofeng Liu who is a famous artist, a direct disciple of famous painter Daqian Zhang. The respectful teacher is an expert in poetry article, Chinese medicine and with versatile, exquisite skill, and very popular. Liu was specialized in painting flowers and landscapes, and calligraphy. At the age of seventeen he was greatly appreciated by the Great Zhuanli Master Kan's successor by saying he is very talented in painting. Liu is gifted, sensitive and eager, respect for teachers, chivalrous and studies martial arts for many years. After the inauguration of Hubei Foreign Trading Bureau he has become a full-time painter and later coached by Yaming, Hai Su Liu. His work during study was collected by the former US Secretary of Defense and his wife, his huge painting "thousand birds chasing phoenix" was attached by the French cultural counselor in his book. Generate lot of foreign income for China at that time.



Scenes of learning in Liu's early stage of career



Renqiu Liu, Large Screen Set <Pine Trees and Cranes Bring Longevity>

2. Ten turbulent years

In those ten years, when cultural industries face extinction, and even in the 1980s the early years of the reforming, he is leading the trend on artistic painting, he is the first one starting “free trade” for the art works, resulting to help “gang” and their families during the Cultural Revolution. His perseverance, pursued the perseverance to continue solid traditional painting techniques, covered a wide range of painting subjects, rich and diverse, and laid a foundation for the subsequent tour of the art school career. Some of his works during this period showed a profound traditional skill highlighted the atmosphere of wide and open, and hearty. They are classy and filled with a distinct personality. At this time he is impulsive and full of energy and good spirit, he is grateful, full of justice and pride. He got excellent comment from senior teacher Mr. Deng who introduced him to study from the famous artist Daqian zhang’s direct disciple Songyan Xu, and was greatly appreciated by the famous artist and calligrapher.



徐松安

徐松安（1911—1969），湖北武汉人。原名徐石，笔名木公、木长、松庵、天池后身等。我国卓有成就的古书画古器鉴赏家、书画篆刻家。东湖印社首任副社长，晚年为武汉市文联专职书画家。

先生的书画篆刻艺术，虽不离法度，中规中矩，但有着一股大气豪放，潇洒出尘的青春气息。他生命中最后几年探索、开创的花卉画风，为中国花卉画开辟了又一新境界，杯业内人士广为赞誉，并被其学生、后人继承和发扬光大。⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾: Yang, Kunbing. <Ink and Calligraphy Casted the Souls of Wuhan--Deceased Chinese Painting & Calligraphy Artists of Wuhan>, “Changjiang Publishing House”, March 2011, Print. Dec 20, 2015

3. Travel to Japan

In the early 1980s, with the help from friends Liu set foot on the road in Japan.

In Japan, he co-founded with Japanese artist the new foreign agency of painting, personally presided and served as president, and then he established Japanese ink painting clubs, teaching, exhibiting, while in Tokyo, Liu's paintings was collected by Mayor of Tokyo who favorites and praise them and personally held a large exhibition of his work, "Songhe longevity" was collected by the large Japanese Corporation cultural institutions. In the period all his works were collected by the Japanese cultural institutions and politicians. The Japanese NHK News praised him as China's most promising young artists.

4. Life of traveling around

Follow the footprint of adviser Daqian Zhang, Liu travels around different countries. During this period, he was chasing chivalrous charm of the adviser Daqian Zhang, traveled in South America, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, the United States, an extensive collection of paintings material, get a better understanding of the track of the painting dean Daqian, broaden the horizons, learn the subtle art of Western painting, really become a non-resident overseas Chinese and spread the hearted love and faithful emissary of Chinese culture. Although being a foreign guest in decades, he always filled with the "gene" and "blood" of the traditional Chinese culture. In the realm of life experience and highlight the fusion of Chinese and Western artistic thought to release sparks.

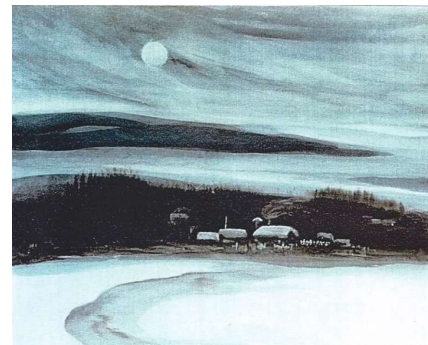
5. Residence in the country of Maple Leaves as a special artist.

1990s Immigrated to Canada as a special artist via Immigration Minister.

Exploring the theoretical basis of western painting, studying painting techniques, drawing widespread multicultural environment that gave him "free air" to make him more expanded horizons in the way of art, becomes more "ambitious", have more further grand plans in the world of painting, has been invited to the Royal Ontario Museum, Recent grand exhibition of Qian-long, the calligraphy is his masterpiece, and actively planning, yet a love of Chinese people with lofty ideals.



Renqiu Liu with the Mayor of Tokyo in Japan



Renqiu Liu, Chinese traditional painting with ink on paper <Moonlight>



Renqiu Liu in Argentina

6. Educating

Liu believes the core of teaching is “based on theory, practice progressively with the demonstration little by little”, the importance of personal moral character, described painting is “to show the soul and the personality with paintings”, strongly advocated to do “good”, “good personality comes first, style comes second”, emphasize on the creation and carry forward of the tradition of national Chinese culture. For decades according to the old saying “his pupils are everywhere”. He has lectured in China, Japan, Germany, Brazil, Argentina, and North America. Quite a few of his students has become outstanding artist nowadays. Yugang Wu (Chairman of the board of Hubei Yu Jing Media Company), Taiwu Peng (Hubei Academy of Fine Arts National Professor). When we asked Mr. Liu how does he look at today’s Chinese artistic painting status and states, he hopes the young artist to focus on a solid basic skills of traditional painting to enhance the humanistic spirit, rather than busy chasing fame and fortune, that is, to respect the “authority” and “the big and famous” However, not to be afraid of them, have the guts to face all challenges. He advocates to base on the of compliance with the traditional culture, using “Western culture” to benefit “Chinese culture, to “study” and then “create” in order to produce more fine art for China.

7. To create brilliant once again in the country of maple leaves

As a Chinese artist residing in such an open and pluralistic culture crossing both countries, Liu requests assertion to absorb local culture such as Indian culture, Western painting, focusing on the breakthrough in color and light on the traditional Chinese painting, take advantage of this natural environment, he would “collect all the specialties in his drafts” to create a North American characteristics, strong artistic taste and style of his art work, the formation of a new system of theory of creation of art works in order to blend in with and get a solid position in the local cultural market. To do his little bit to help the Chinese civilization. ■



Renqiu Liu, Large Screen Set <Dragon and Phoenix>

探索繪畫藝術家劉任求的藝術之路

叶晓堤

(加拿大文物研究基金会, 许如辉音乐基金会)

关键词: 刘任求 绘画 艺术 生涯

要了解和认识刘任求的绘画艺术, 首先我得从他的名字溯源。“任”乃“任重道远”, “求”为之“求学不止”, 这也正是他绘画生涯的“任求”二字的印证, 走在“师古, 师自然, 师心”的艺术创作历程。初见刘先生及其作品, 是被他个人的豪放洒脱, 大气, 霸气和骨气所震撼, 再次是被他的风格多样和中式中透出西方元素所吸引, 还有就是他渊博的绘画知识, 世界级的眼光和精湛的技术与艺术功力, 形成“刘式风格”, 最后你不得不去想要探究此人的艺术生涯之路。

一. 早期求学之路

刘任求先生出生于中国湖南省一个书香门第之家, 自幼师从爷爷开始收到绘画, 书法及传统中国文化的教育与熏陶。1965年拜师于张大千的入室弟子著名金石书画家邓少峰。这位尊师是诗词文章皆通, 精通中医, 多才多艺, 精湛娴熟, 凡认者同称道。主攻国画花鸟及山水人物, 金石书法兼而习之。十七岁时被国学大师篆隶大家黄侃传人夸赞在绘画上十分有天份。刘任求天资聪慧, 敏而好学, 尊师重道, 侠肝义胆且习武多年, 豪气万千。之后就职湖北外贸成为专职画家。而后又拜师亚明, 刘海粟。他的作品在学习时就被前美国国防部长及夫人收藏和青睐, 巨幅画作“百鸟朝凤”被法国文化参赞收在书中。当时为国家创收不菲的外汇收入。

二. 十年动荡岁月中

在十年文化产业遭遇灭顶之灾的时候, 乃至20世纪80年代改革开放之初, 在绘画艺术上他是领跑者, 开书画“自由买卖”之先河, 所得用来帮助文革的“黑帮”们及家属。锲而不舍, 孜孜以求的毅力继续扎实传统绘画技法, 涉列广泛的绘画题材, 多样丰富, 为后来的艺术游学生涯打下基础。这期间他的一些作品表现出深厚的传统功力, 作品已突显大气磅礴, 用笔酣畅淋漓。充满着鲜明的个性和大家气息。此时已是劲力蓄发和卯足精气神。他以德报恩, 充满正义和豪气, 深得邓老垂青, 并亲自介绍国画泰斗张大千的入室弟子徐松安亦金石书画名家深造, 深得徐老的“宠信”。

三. 远渡东瀛

80年代初, 刘先生在友人帮助下踏上日本云游之路。在日本他与日本艺术家共同创立新洋绘画社, 亲自主持并担任社长, 而后成立日本水墨画画社, 教书育人, 办画展, 其中他的作品被日本东京都都长收藏和赞誉并亲自为他举办大型画展, 他的作品“松鹤延年”被日本大型株式会社文物机构收藏。在日期间, 他所有作品一出场就被日本文化机构, 政界要人收藏, 被日本NHK的新闻赞誉为中国最有前途的青年画家。

四. 过闲良野鹤的生活

追逐师爷张大千足迹, 如闲云野鹤踏遍奇域。这期间, 任求追逐师爷张大千的风韵侠骨, 游历南美阿根廷, 巴西, 乌拉圭, 美国, 广泛收集绘画素材, 感悟画坛泰斗大千的绘画轨迹, 开阔视野, 汲取西方绘画艺术之精妙, 真心成为一位侨居海外却骨子里热爱中华并传播中华民族文化的忠实使者。虽客居国外数十载, 举手投足间却充盈着中华民族文化传统的“基因”与“血

脉”，在人生的阅历及境界上彰显中西文化融合而释放出艺术思想的火花。

五. 以艺术家特许身份定居枫叶之国

90年代移民加拿大，他以特许艺术家的身份移居枫叶之国。得移民部部长的特许，在加国期间，努力探求西方绘画理论基础，钻研绘画技法，广泛吸取多元文化大环境所带给他的“自由空气”，使他在艺术之路上更加扩充视野，“野心”更加膨胀，要在绘画艺术天地里进一步大展宏图，多次被安省皇家博物馆邀请，近期乾隆大展的书法就是他的杰作，并积极策划，不失一位爱中华的有志之士。

六. 教书育人

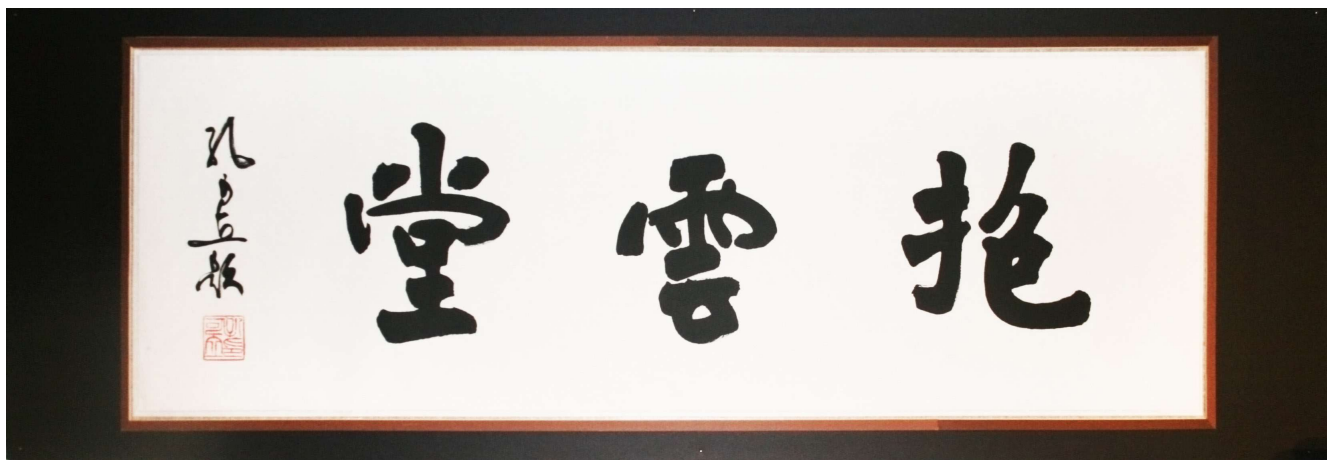
画家信奉的教学核心是以“理论为基础，边示范边实践的循序渐进”，注重个人品德修养，可谓绘画是“以图示心，以画示品”，极力提倡要做“好人”，“人品第一，画风第二”的原则，注重民族文化传统的传承，创造，再弘扬光大。几十年来他的学生可畏那句老话：桃李满天下。先后在中国，日本，德国，巴西，阿根廷，北美收徒讲学。这期中有不少在当今绘坛出类拔萃的杰出艺术家。吴玉刚（湖北玉景传媒公司董事长），澎太武（湖北美院国家级教授）。问及刘老对当今中国画坛的自见时，他希望年青画家要注重打好扎实的传统绘画基本功和人文精神的提升，不要忙于追逐名与利，即要尊重“权威”与“大家”，但且不可惧怕权威，要敢于挑战。主张在遵守传统的基础之上“西”为“中”用，要“研究”再“创造”，为国家、为中华民族创作“精品”。

七. 枫叶国再次打造辉煌

做为中国画家侨居这样一个开放与多元文化并重的国渡，刘任求主张要入乡随俗，吸收本土文化如印第安文化，西方绘画，注重中国绘画在色与光上对传统的突破，充分利用这里自然环境的优势，他要“收尽奇峰起草稿”从而创造出具有北美特色，强烈艺术品位与风格的作品，形成新的理论创作体系从而容入本地文化市场，占有一席之地，为中华文明添砖加瓦。

“抱云者常怀？鹏之志，云汉之心，侠肝义胆，狂放不羁，卓尔不群，浪迹天涯，呼风唤雨，气吞山河，挥云即去，抱云而归，虚无缥缈，得意忘形。此乃坦荡君子，人中之龙也，塑题任求仁兄斋号谓之“抱云堂”矣。”⁽²⁾ ■

图：抱云堂



⁽²⁾：摘自孔可立于2014年5月5日武汉。