

Embracing the World – A Quick Sketch Exhibition of Lok Hei's Footprints

Preface

by Chan Ho Sing

Traveling is a form of life for people. In the process of traveling, observing, appreciating, and having fun, you can understand your desires and go after them. These thoughts can be spread by means of poems, articles, books, and paintings. Examples of such can be found in ancient and modern China.

The earliest Chinese landscape painting handed down from generation to generation is “Travelling in Spring 遊春圖” by Zhan Ziqian 展子虔 from Sui dynasty.

It mainly describes and focuses on the meaning of ‘travel’, with footsteps wandering around mountains and rivers. In earlier days, famous calligrapher Wang Xizhi 王羲之 gathered with his friends at Lanting 蘭亭 of Kuaiji Mountains 會稽山 in the 9th year of Yonghe and has written down the famous phrases in Orchid Pavilion – “High mountains and luxuriant bamboo groves lie in the back” – with a swift stream gurgling around. With such a good taste.

“Spreading before the eye is the beauty of nature”. What a joy! With an exclamation of “When future generations look back to my time, it will probably be similar to how I now think of the past.” An unforgettable life experience it is.

This beautiful essay through the ages is, in fact, just a documentary of the book wisdom and a group of drinking buddies having fun in the suburbs. Du Fu, the famous poet said: “If the mountains and rivers are waiting for you, the flowers and willows will be more selfless”, which means that the mountains and rivers seem to be waiting for people to come. “Go up on the stage alone for a century of illness, ten thousand li (mile) feels sad with the coming of autumn and often sojourns”. Obviously, Du Fu was obsessed by nature, singing, and crying for no reason, and putting a strong emotional color on the objective scenery, to fill his rough life.

Traveling is also wonderfully inspiring. Giovanni Boccaccio’s famous quote: “One’s wisdom is the source of pleasure” is derived from his journey. This representative of the Renaissance wandered in Rome and Naples to follow the footsteps of the masters of classical literature and indirectly contributed to the birth of the famous ‘Decamole’. Now we describe travelling or tourism as ‘recharging’, which seems reasonable.

As we reflect on the psychological rebellion against the inconvenience of travelling under the epidemics, and the desire to rest and gain spiritual strength from the journey, this exhibition brings out the value of **“Embracing the World – A Quick Sketch Exhibition of Lok Hei’s Footprints”**.

Our life should be full of historical memory, as well as poetic imagination and expectation. You can reach out your eyes even though your feet cannot go. So why not follow the brush of the artist and start traveling through valleys and mountains, letting the mind fly, and injecting vitality and courage into your life.

Good memories are also a source of joy. The exhibits include scenes familiar to you and me, such as sceneries of Macau, the Forbidden City in Beijing, landscape of Guilin, Mausoleum of Yellow Emperor in Shaanxi, Zhujiajiao in Shanghai, Nyingchi in Tibet, Town of Furong in Hunan, St. Petersburg in Russia, Porto in Portugal, Venice in Italy, Okinawa in Japan, etc. One picture after another in a panoramic composition, like a montage sequence technique with its rhythmic lines, images are delivered to the audience's eyes as if one belongs in it. And each can fill in the colors freely in their minds.

The brush of the artist covers the beautiful mountains and rivers of our motherland. And the valleys and waterway in the foreign lands. He is full of appreciation, praise, and blessings. The feelings are simple and sincere, without boundaries. It is reminiscent of "Heaven and Earth live side by side with me, and all things are one with me". All things have their own nature and there is contentment. But what do the Chinese mean by 'The World'?

We uphold the embrace of harmonious coexistence between countries, people, and all things. What changes will we bring to the 'World'? We strive to always be free from the troubles of life. "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?".

It's time to meet Lok Hei and plan your next journey.

RUI CUNHA FOUNDATION

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