

上海阿妈:我的绘画启蒙老师

Shanghai Amah: My First Painting Teacher



Peter and his mother, Shanghai
Peter and his mother in Shanghai



Peter带着女儿Libra一起到上海寻根,
2012年10月
Peter came back to Shanghai to seek
root with his daughter Libra, October
11, 2012



Peter在新闻发布会上向大家展示自己所绘
的记忆中的“阿妈”。

Peter showed the picture of his Amah he
painted from his memory at the press
conference, October 11, 2012.



Peter的作品“爱”
Peter's painting - LOVE



Peter的作品“自由女神”
Peter's painting: Liberty Head



Peter Max, 1937年10月19日生于德国, 1938年随父母逃亡上海避难。Peter一家在上海住了十年。

Peter Max was born in Germany on October 19, 1937. His parents fled Nazi Germany with him in 1938 to escape the Holocaust and travelled to Shanghai, China, where they lived for the next ten years.

Peter Max

2012年10月11日, Peter Max 专程来到上海犹太难民纪念馆举行新闻发布会, 寻找当年的阿妈。他说: “她只比我大几岁, 就像我的姐姐一样。她是我的艺术启蒙老师。”

儿时在上海的生活在 Peter Max 的心田播下了艺术的种子。他们一家住在一个塔形的房子, 家的一边是佛教寺庙, 另一边是锡克教堂。清晨, 他会看见佛教寺庙的僧侣们用很大的竹毛笔在宽阔的宣纸上练字; 晚上, 他又会聆听锡克教徒们用优美的旋律诵读经文。当 Peter 在上海生活的时候, 他有一个跟自己很亲近的阿妈。阿妈每天教他如何用腕力握毛笔和画画。Peter 的母亲也很鼓励他, 总是把各种绘画的材料放在阳台上, 任由他去涂鸦。

1948年, Peter随家人离开上海, 他在船上哭得很伤心, 对阿妈十分不舍。离开上海后, Peter一家辗转经过以色列、法国等地后最终在美国定居下来。他与阿妈也断了音讯。自从离开中国后, Peter一直希望能够再次回到上海, 希望能够找到他的阿妈。

如今, Peter Max已经成为了美国一名著名的画家, 他的作品经常表现名人、政治家、运动员、体育项目以及一些其他的流行文化。他为福特、卡特、里根、老布什等总统画过像, 更为克林顿总统画了100幅肖像。大陆航空公司一架波音777-200ER的机身特殊图案和挪威邮轮公司Breakaway号大型邮轮的外观图案也是由Peter Max设计的。

2012年10月, Peter凭着记忆给自己的上海阿妈画了一幅素描, 并带着这幅画重回上海寻根。他希望能够找到阿妈, 再抱抱她, 并愿意带她到美国去生活。他说, “我去过很多国家, 不管到哪里, 我都觉得自己是中国人, 我认为自己百分之八十是中国人。”

就像日后成就大业的许多犹太人一样, Peter 也是在上海埋下了最初的种子。Peter Max 位于上海浦东的个人工作室已经于2012年10月启用。他希望在日后的作品中更加亲近中国, 用画笔重现对“第二故乡”的感情。

On October 11, 2012, Peter Max paid a special visit to the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum where he attended a press conference and expressed his wish to find his Shanghai Amah, i.e. his nanny. He said, “She was only a couple of years older than me, so she was more like an elder sister of mine. She is my first art teacher and opened the window of art for me.”

During his years in Shanghai, Peter lived in a pagoda-style house, between a Buddhist and a Sikh temple. In the morning, he would watch the Buddhist monks practice calligraphy with large bamboo brushes on large sheets of rice paper. At night, he would listen to the beautifully sung prayers of the Sikhs. When Peter lived in Shanghai he was very close with his nanny, Amah. Peter's Chinese nanny taught him how to hold and paint with a brush by using the movement of his wrist. His mother encouraged him to develop his art skills by leaving a variety of art supplies on the balcony of the pagoda.

In 1948, Peter had to leave Shanghai with his family. He cried on the ship because he did not want to part with his Amah. After Shanghai, Peter's family moved to Israel and France and finally settled down in the United States. Peter lost contact with his Amah but hoped that one day he would return to Shanghai to find her.

Today, Peter is a well-known artist in the USA. His works often feature famous people, statesmen, sportsmen, sports and some other popular cultures. He has created paintings and projects for US Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan and the first President Bush. And he has created as many as 100 paintings of President Clinton.

One of Continental Airlines' Boeing 777 aircrafts had a special appearance designed by Peter. He has also painted for a Norwegian Cruise line named Breakaway.

In October, 2012, Peter returned to Shanghai with a sketch of his Amah, drawn from memory. He hoped to find her, embrace her, and bring his Amah to America. Peter said, “I've been to many countries. Wherever I go, I feel myself a Chinese. I think I'm 80% a Chinese.”

Peter opened his own studio in Pudong New Area of Shanghai. He hopes that his future works will show more of his attachment to his second homeland: China.



在参观Peter Max上海工作室时, 上海犹太难民纪念馆馆长陈俭(左)向Peter(右)表示祝贺。

Chen Jian, Curator of Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum (left) visited Peter Max's Shanghai studio and congratulated Peter (right) on the successful opening of the studio.