

'Painted by ghosts', Chinese bottle art revived by Peppa Pig

Delicate designs painted on the inside of miniature Chinese **snuff** bottles by artists like Zhang Yuhua and her husband usually feature **calligraphy**, **floral compositions** and traditional rural scenes.

snuff 鼻烟; 灯花

calligraphy 书法

floral 花的; 植物的

composition 作品

Concentrating hard as she holds a tiny paintbrush poked through the neck of a **translucent** glass bottle, Zhang traces ink across its interior, her steady hand leaving a perfect impression despite barely being able to see what she is doing.

translucent 透明的

palm 手掌; 棕榈树

The bottles, which fit easily in the **palm**, were originally used to hold smokeless tobacco among Chinese high society in the 17th century, and only started to be painted for decoration many decades later.

Today other "ghost" bottle painters, like Wei Dongfang, 48, are reviving the craft by adorning their works with more unusual designs inspired by popular culture.

"I once painted a character from the cartoon Peppa Pig inside a bottle for a child who visited my shop," said Wei, who sells the **ornaments** from his shop in the Chinese capital, where prices range from 60 to 6,000 yuan.

ornament 装饰物

"People are bored of old-fashioned images and **motifs**. To widen the scope of our art, we need to use new elements," he added.

motif 主题; 动机; 图形