



## To the starry nights

“来日愿有千千晚星，亮过今夜月亮”

Last month, the film *“Loving Vincent”* brought a flood of memories and emotions on my flight back to China after a four-year study in the Netherlands. Little did I know the profound experiences that lay ahead when I embarked on my Ph.D. adventure in September 2019, and this is a life chapter that I cannot fill alone. Therefore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people who painted a beautiful chapter in my PhD journey.

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At the end of the movie *Loving Vincent*, a message from **Vincent van Gogh** was conveyed:

"I want to touch people with my art,

I want them to say: he feels deeply, he feels tenderly."

Dearest Vincent, I found peace and strength countless times while walking along the paintings in your lifetime. Somehow, your joy, happiness, struggle, pain, and despair still inspire young generations after a century. But Vincent, with this thesis, I would like to thank you, in my way. Thank you for providing me with such a soul harbor in my youth in the Netherlands.

In the end, I would like to dedicate this doctoral thesis to all the starless and starry nights, to my beloved grandparents, who have the purest souls and hearts of gold in the world.

Tinghua

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