

## Murals: Reports On Pi County Murals, From People's Daily

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Feng Xianling 冯宪玲 & Ding Shangqian 丁尚千, 'Peasants love painting, take pleasure in pictures: Meeting the peasant painters of Pi county, Jiangsu province' (nongjia xihua huanle tu -fang nongmin minhuaxiang jiangsu pixian 农家喜画欢乐图 -访农民画乡江苏邳县).

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江苏邳县是全国著名的壁画县。我们来到这个农民画乡，亲眼看到了农民作画的乐趣。

当步入文化馆画展室时，我们被迎面一幅画吸引住了。画面上：一条宽广的林荫道，道上机车奔驰，车声震飞了树上的落鸟；道旁，禾苗青翠，几组男女社员正给禾苗追肥，个个脸上流露出喜悦；稍远处，小电站的抽水机正在喷水，那清亮的泉水，宛如一缕银带；左方，桑园叶绿，鱼塘水碧；右边，鸡鸭欢叫，白羊似绵。那采桑人笑逐颜开，那喂鱼人喜气洋溢，那鸡场上，鹅群中，饲养人个个乐陶陶……好一幅"农家欢乐图"呀！

这幅长卷，画的是八十年代的邳县农村。作者是白布公社61岁的农民谢振铎。谢振铎何以能画出这样好的画？他的画何以能这样吸引人？老人听了我们的提问，哈哈地笑了，他捋着胡子说道："人乐笔才勤呀！"他给我们讲述了自己作画的经历。

还在幼年的时候，他就很喜欢画画，但那时无笔无纸，就用砖头，用筷子，在墙上，在磨道，到处都画着鸡呀猫呀狗的。土改了，他家分了几亩地，秋天，破草房里第一次堆上了千斤粮食。他心里乐呀，喜呀，卖了点余粮，买回了纸笔，画得更勤了。慢慢地，他在四乡里出了名，今儿这家来找画床，明儿那家来找画花。那些年，他心里真是越画越甜。然而，十年动乱时期，贫困、忧愁笼罩着他的生活。那时，他长吁短叹，扔掉了画盘，折断了画笔。

现在，责任田里收的粮食，又装得他家大折子满，小折子尖。老谢一家7口，住有6间新瓦房，今年光小麦一季就收了4,000多斤。家里还养有3口大肥猪，47只兔，8只貂，27只鸡，19只鸭。他告诉我们，到秋天，他家还能收3,000斤粮食，1,000斤花生，700斤大豆；副业上连同棉花，共可收入3,000多元。过着这样的日子，怎不叫人心乐意浓呢！

次日清晨，我们来到陇海路上八集车站附近的一个农家小院。在一簇青翠的葡萄架下，韩召民、董俊花这对青年夫妇正在整理他们的新作。我们发现其中一幅题为《农忙夜市》的画很有意思。这幅画画的是在农忙季节，商业部门的一个服务小组披星戴月来到了丰收场上，欢乐的农民向他们围来，大家挑选着各自要买的东西，个个脸上挂着欢笑。这幅画构图新颖，色彩强烈，夜空中星光闪烁，丰收场上灯光辉映，整幅画面充满了欢乐气氛。这是小董的作品，用的是年画形式，看后不光我们夸奖，连小韩也很赞赏。韩召民是从部队复员回农村的，两人经常在一起画画、评画，彼此越来越了解，于是产生了爱情。画——成了他们的红娘，画——增添了他们生活的色彩。

我们沿着沂河岸，来到了六十多岁的农民女画家李登慧的家里。等了一会，李登慧喜气洋洋地带着从大学回家度假的儿子、女儿，从沂河边速写回来了。院子里顿时热闹起来，我们翻看他们的速写，全画的是沂河，但风格不同，各有千秋。李登慧笑着说："不行，老了，不如孩子们画得好。"的确，论艺术水平，儿女们已是"青出于蓝而胜于蓝"了。

李登慧做姑娘时就爱画画，爱用剪刀剪窗花，剪鞋花。左邻右舍，婶子大娘，都夸她心灵手巧。结婚后，她依然兴趣不移，画个不停。现在，儿子和大女儿都上了大学，小女儿也参加了工作，一家人的生活充满了喜气。她觉得越过越年轻，越过越有劲，画画的兴致更浓了。李登慧告诉我们，待把这套《沂河风情》画好以后，她打算和儿女们一起合作一套《沂河明天》组画。

邳县丰年喜事多，拿笔挥毫的农民越来越多。听文化馆同志介绍，全县每年都有千多名农民在挥笔作画，有男有女，有老有少，他们用画笔描绘自己的生活，描绘自己的理想，描出自己的心声，歌颂伟大的社会主义祖国和崭新的社会主义农村。"人乐画笔勤，农民绘丹青"，愿邳县农民画更加欣欣向荣、绚丽多彩！

TITLE

Peasants love painting, take pleasure in pictures: Meeting the peasant painters of Pi county, Jiangsu province (nongjia xihua huanle tu -fang nongmin minhuaxiang jiangsu pixian 农家喜画欢乐图 -访农民画乡江苏邳县 )

DATE

1982-10-03

CREATOR

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PUBLISHER

Renmin Ribao

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DESCRIPTION

Pi county mural report.

Pi county, Jiangsu province is the famous mural county of the nation. We came to this village to witness the peasant's joy in making murals. When we entered the painting gallery of the Culture Gallery, we were welcomed by a painting that drew us in. On the painting was: a broad road shaded by trees, cars bounding along the road, the sound of the cars startling birds alighting upon the trees; on the side of the road, emerald seedlings, fertilized by teams of men and women workers, each one of them smiling with joy; further in the distance, an electrical pump spraying water, the refreshing water curving like a silver belt; to the left, the green leaves of a mulberry grove, the jade of the fishpond; to the right, chickens and geese clucking, white sheep like cotton. The people picking mulberries beam with smiles, those feeding the fish are full of joy, in the chicken coop, among the geese, the breeders are carefree [...] a good 'happy peasant picture' indeed!

This painting shows the Pi county village of the eighties. The artist is the 61 year old Xie Zhenduo of White Cloth Commune. Why was Xie Zhenduo able to paint such a wonderful work? The old man listened to our questions, laughed, and stroked his beard, answering: 'When the people are happy, the brush is energetic!' Then he told us about his experience making painting.

Even in his youth he enjoyed painting, but then he did not have brush or paper, so he used bricks and chopsticks on walls, roads, and everywhere else to paint things like chickens, or cats, or dogs. After land reform, his family was apportioned a few *mu* of farmland, so the fall harvest was the first time that their rough house was piled with a thousand *jin* of grain. His heart was full of joy, of happiness, and he sold a little extra grain to buy paper and brush, painting with vigor. Over time, he became well-known among the four villages, such that one day a family might seek him out to paint a bed, another day another family might find him to painting flowers. Within three years, his soul became more tender the more he painted. Unfortunately, in the ten years of turmoil [during the Cultural Revolution], poverty, worries cast shadows over his life. At that time, he fell into a state, threw aside his palette, and stopped painting.

Now, the field's harvests again fill the family's account books. The seven member of Old Xie's family live in a new six-room tiled house, and in this year just the wheat harvest totaled 4,000 *jin*. The family has three pigs, 47 rabbits, 8 minks, 28 chickens, and 19 ducks. He told us that in the autumn, his family will be able to harvest 3,000 *jin* of grains, 1,000 *jin* of peanuts, and 700 *jin* of soybeans; supplementary farming of cotton will add 3,000 yuan. Under these days, how could people not be full of joy and happiness?

The next morning, we went to a peasant home near Baji bus stop on Longhai Road. Under green grapes clustering upon trellis, a young husband and wife, Han Zhaomin and Dong Junhua, were preparing their new works. We discovered among them an interesting work titled *Peasants Busy at the Night Market*. The painting is of the busy season for farmers, as a team serving the commerce bureau arrives at the harvest fields under the rising moon and stars, welcomed by peasants who encircle them, selecting the things that they wish to buy, smiles across each face. The composition of this work is fresh, the colors strong, the twinkling of stars in the night sky, the shining of lights illuminating the harvest field, the entire painting is full of a joyful atmosphere. This is a work by Small Dong, employing the New Year's picture style, and we were not the only ones to praise it after seeing the painting, even Small Han also complimented the work. Han Zhaomin returned to the village after serving in the People's Liberation Army, and the two often paint together, discuss painting, understood each other even more, and eventually fell in love. Painting—became their wedding, painting—added to the color of their lives.

We then followed the Yi River, coming to the home of the woman artist in her sixties, Li Denghui. After waiting a bit, Li Denghui joyfully came with her son and daughter, who had come home from university for holiday, and had gone to the Yi River to sketch. Their courtyard suddenly became raucous as we looked through their sketches, all of the works depicting the Yi River, but their styles were different across generations. Li Denghui smiled, saying, 'Not good, I'm old now, and don't paint as well as my children.' Certainly, in terms of artistic ability, son and daughter have 'surpassed the master.'

When Li Denghui was a girl, she liked painting, enjoyed papercuts and creating window decorations, cutting shoe decorations. All of her neighbors and aunts praised her clever skill.

After marrying, her interest did not waver, and she continued to paint. Now, her son and elder daughter are all at college, her younger daughter joins in the work, so the family's life is full of joy. She feels herself to be younger and younger, with more and more energy, her interest in painting even more intense. Li Denghui told us that after finishing this group of *Scenes from Yi River*, she will create a set of paintings titled *Tomorrow's Yi River* together with her son and daughter.

Pi county is full of prosperity, and the peasants who pick up the brush continue to increase. After listening to an introduction by Cultural Gallery cadres, every year a thousand peasants in the county wield their brushes, male and female, young and old, using the brush to depict their lives, illustrating their ideals, representing their aspirations, extolling the great socialist nation and the new socialist village. 'When people are happy, the brush is vigorous, the peasants paint'—we hope that the Pi county peasant painters continue to thrive, to be beautiful!

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