

SELECTED PAINTINGS OF ANIMALS BY ARTIST MI XIUBIN



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秘修斌动物画集

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李 成 张燕娥

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English: Liu Dayong

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作者在直布罗陀海峡

秘修斌,男,笔名墨丹,号野草堂居士;1946年生于古都长安,祖籍河北省故城县人。中国国际书画艺术研究会会员、美国全美画会荣誉会员、中国美术家协会会员、中国北京神州大学艺术系教授、国家一级画师。

秘修斌六岁习画,擅长动物、花卉、翎毛、兼工人物。作品题材广泛,表现手法各异,画面灵动飞扬独具一格,画作寓意深刻耐人寻味,笔墨含蓄简练且惜墨如金,被誉为"灵象画师"。多年来,他受国家委派随团出访美、英、法、日、加、泰、西、比等17个国家,作中国画讲学和交流。国外的"世界日报"、"中华日报"、"侨报"、"国际日报"、"泰国日报"、"洛杉矶报"、"西班牙报"等数十种报纸及电视台都给予了很高的评价;国内的"人民日报"、"光明日报"、"中国政协报"、"国土资源报"、"桥"杂志等五十多家新闻媒体对他的艺术成就也作了大篇幅的报道。他的绘画作品多次在国内外获奖,并被世界艺术殿堂"美国汉廷顿艺术博物馆"、"南加州博物馆"、"圣地亚哥博物馆"、"加州橙县博物馆"、"英国遗产部"、"直布罗陀博物馆"、"泰王国博物馆"、"日本嘉靖馆"、"西班牙博物馆"及"天安门"、"毛主席纪念堂"等国内外六十多家著名馆(会)收藏。

近年来,秘修斌的作品又多次获奖,1998年荣获"中国工农红军东渡、长征60周年全国书画大展"金奖;1999年荣获"第五届国际书画大展"金奖;参与了香港回归及澳门回归书画活动和展览。出版有"秘修斌画集"、"中国名人画库秘修斌画集"。作品和成就被载入"世界书画名录"、"中国当代名人画集"、"世纪曙光""历代著名书画家大词典"等大型典籍,并在国家文化网上发布。



MI XIUBIN AT THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

ARTIST MI XIUBIN

Artist Mi Xiubin, also known as Mo Dan and the Recluse of the Cottage, is one of China's top painters and a professor at the art department of Beijing Shengzhou University as well as a member of the China International Society for the Study of Calligraphy and Painting, a member of the Chinese Artists' Association, and an honorary member of the All-America Painting Society in the United States.

Mi Xiubin was born in 1946 in Xi'an, one of China's ancient capital cities and now capital of Shaanxi Province. His ancestral home is Gucheng County, Hebei Province. Mi began studying painting at the age of six and has devoted himself to the art ever since. He has developed painting techniques of his own and specializes in animals, birds, flowers, and people. His paintings are executed in bold and simple lines, and they are lifelike and meaningful. Thus, Mi is known as the Master Painter of the Soul.

In recent years, Mi has been asked by the Chinese government to teach traditional Chinese painting in foreign countries and to promote Sino-foreign cultural exchanges. He has visited 17 countries including France, Japan, Canada, Thailand, Spain, Belgium, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Many Chinese and overseas television stations, magazines, and newspapers, such as People's Daily, Guangming Daily, World Daily, Chinese Daily, and Los Angeles Daily Nèws, have spoken highly of his attainments. Mi's paintings have been exhibited in China and abroad and have been collected by more than 60 museums around the world, including the Huntington Art Collection, the South California Museum, and the San Diego Museum, in the United States; the British Heritages Department; the Gibraltar Museum; the Museum of Thailand; the Museum of Spain; and a museum in Japan. Mi's paintings can be found in the Tian'anmen Gate Tower and the Memorial Hall of Chairman Mao Zedong.

Over the past years, Mi Xiubin has won many awards. In 1998, he won the Gold Prize at the Nationwide Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Long March by the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, and in 1999, the Gold Prize at the Fifth International Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition. Mi's paintings were displayed at the celebrations for the return of Hong Kong and Macao to the motherland. His works have been published in albums including the Painting Album of Mi Xiubin from the series Treasures of Contemporary Chinese Painting, and Selected Paintings by Mi Xiubin. Mi's paintings and attainments can be found in the List of World Paintings and Calligraphy, Selected Works by Renowned Contemporary Chinese Painters, and A Dictionary of Famous Chinese Painters and Calligraphers. Mi's paintings can also be found on the Chinese Internet sites.

为鸟兽传神写照

——读秘修斌的画 邵大箴

在中外绘画史上,均有艺术家专攻翎毛、兽禽的。描绘的角度中国和西方画家有些差异,西方许多画家注重描绘已经屠宰过的鸟兽,在真实的描绘中体现人对自然界的征服,体现艺术的技巧。这种绘画门类,被他们称之为"still life",意为"静止的生命",中文译为"静物"。中国古代绘画中,这类描绘甚少,而翎毛、兽禽在艺术家的笔下,大多是充满生命活力的,其形体、动势及表情往往体现某种人格力量。这是和中国古代"天人合一"的美学观念相一致的。描写翎毛、兽禽的绘画在我国民间有广大的市场,一直受到广大群众的欢迎。但20世纪以来,却一度受到了画界主流舆论有意无意的压制,从狭隘的"题材决定论"出发,认为这类绘画没有积极的主题,不予以倡导。改革开放以来,人们的认识又逐渐在改变,一些有志于这类绘画的艺术家开始大显身手,积极进取、探索,做出了可喜的成绩。在这群画家中,秘修斌是值得我们注意和赞赏的一位。

秘修斌 1946 年生于古都长安,从童年时期开始,就开始习画,但无缘进艺术院校深造,靠揣摩古今 名师名作和观察、研究自然摸索着前进。他自嘲地称自己为"野草堂主"。不过,这株野草受着阳光雨露 的滋润。他广泛地吸收各方面的营养。在生活艺术实践中,他逐渐认识到,艺术虽有自身的规律,但其创 作原理却是和其他事物有相通的方面。在生活中的种种体验,均有助于对艺术的理解。他是一位有心人,时时处处注意艺术的体验积累,注意融会贯通地把握艺术创造的奥秘。此外,他为人谦逊,善于向别人学习,他刻有一枚最大的印章"众人所长皆为我师"以自勉。

在生活中,秘修斌是一位能工巧匠;在知识领域,他是一位杰出的科学家、工程师。他完成过10多项国家科研项目,其中6项曾获得部、省市级重大科技成果奖,并有自己的论著出版。原大的秦代兵马俑和铜车马、古代金镂玉衣、地动仪和木制机械,以及各种青铜器皿、彩陶等,从造型、翻模到最后成形、复旧,他均能一手完成。虽然他在科技上有驰骋才能的机会,但他仍痴情于绘事,迷恋于花鸟和动物的描绘。他似乎觉得,他这个人之所以来到这个世界上,是为了给人们描绘各种鸟类和兽禽的。

绘画,尤其是中国古代文人水墨,严格地说不是一种职业。有其他职业的文人们借笔墨寄情遣兴,在自娱中表达自己的观念和理想。而文人们要把艺术做出点样子来,起码要有下面三个条件:一要有生活经验的积累;二要有各方面文化艺术的修养;三要有相应的艺术技巧。秘修斌从少年起做过各种艰苦活计,

有一段不平凡的坎坷经历,在生活的磨练中他感悟甚多;他在科技领域内所做的种种探索和获得的成就,也开阔了他的视野与胸襟;艺术上他虽未经过系统的学院训练,但从对传统大师作品的研习、临摹中也获益匪浅。再加上他勤奋而有悟性,他的绘画水平不断在提高。所以,当他把自己的主要精力献身于绘画时,他是有基础的,工作重点的转换显得很自然。

秘修斌在翎毛、兽禽的艺术创造中,始终抓住两个要点: 研习传统和研习自然。从传统中学习和掌握语言的规范和表现技巧,在对自然物象的观察中训练自己理解和写生能力,并努力从中获得新鲜的感受,获得创作灵感。近几年来,他的足迹遍及欧、亚、美许多国家,带着浓厚的兴致观察各种动物,仔细研究它们在各种不同生存环境中的状态、行动和表情。面对他将要描绘的动物,他采用的是"中国式"的写生方式,主要是默记,记印象,记感觉,注意整体地把握意象,然后胸有成竹地在画室进行创作。因此,他笔下的鸟兽已不是一般的写生,而是在客观物象基础上带有主观感情的创造。这里有变形,有夸张,有虚构。画家重视对象的外形,深知离开基本的形似很难表现出对象的"性格"特征,但同时,他不停留在形似的基础上,而努力追求神似,并进一步在描绘中抒发内心的感情。用他自己的话说,他要把大自然的感情表现出来,要把大自然的灵魂表现出来。进而他还努力在对自然物象的描绘中表现他对自然的思考。因此我们在秘修斌的作品中,不仅看到各种形态不一、神态气概各各有异的鸟兽,而且看到在某种意义上是"人化了"的动物。这是秘修斌创造的艺术世界,它给人们以感情的陶冶和精神的升华;它引导人们和这些人类的朋友们对话和交流情感,它启发人们要和它们友好相处,要珍惜生命…同时,艺术家用大写意的水墨语言所塑造的形象,在笔纵墨放中所表现出来的灵性,他掌握的有个性特色的艺术技巧,也给我们以美的愉悦与享受。

秘修斌在绘画上取得了成绩,但他深知艺海无涯,他前面要走的路很长,摆在自己面前的课题还很多, 只有不断实践、不断学习、不断总结,才可能一步一步地向着理想的目标前进。我们期待他为人们奉献出 更多更优美的作品。

2001年12月3日于北京,中央美术学院

LIFELIKE PICTURES OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS -VIEWING THE PAINTINGS OF MI XIUBIN

BY SHAO DAZHEN

In the art history of China and other countries, there have been many skillful painters of birds and animals, but the Chinese and Western styles are different. Western artists focus their skill on dead birds or animals to show man's control over nature. This style is famous as "still life," but is found in very few ancient Chinese paintings.

In Chinese painting, birds and animals are full of life. Their shapes, movements, and countenances express their strength of personality. This style matches the ancient Chinese aesthetic theory that man is an integral part of nature. Paintings of birds and animals are popular in China and are loved by the people, but in the 20th century, this style was suppressed by the trend of opinion in artistic circles. Critics took the narrow view that everything should be decided by subject matter and that the subjects of such paintings were not active. Today, however, since China's implementation of the reform and opening-up policies, these people have started changing their opinion, and painters who are fond of such subjects have been active and achieved encouraging results. Among them, Mi Xiubin is worth mentioning.

Mi Xiubin was born in 1946 in Xi'an, formerly the ancient capital city of Chang'an. He began to learn painting in his childhood, but he had no opportunity to enter an academy of fine arts for further study. He had to explore his way forward by copying the masterpieces of famous painters and by studying nature. He calls himself the Head of the Weeds, but this weed grew up in the sunlight and with plenty of rain. He absorbed all kinds of artistic nutrition from his practice and gradually realized that although art has its own rules, its creational principle is similar to that of other endeavors.

His experiences in life have enriched his understanding of art. He has carefully summarized his artistic experiences and attained a command of the mysterious process of artistic creation. He is modest and learns from the strong points of others. In fact, he

once inscribed a large seal with the words "Those who have strong points are my teachers."

Mi is also an accomplished scientist and engineer. He has published his own theses, and he has worked on a dozen or so national scientific research projects, of which six have won ministerial, provincial, or city awards for important scientific and technological research achievements. He has perfected the entire procedure—including making molds, casting, and shaping—for duplicating the original Qin Dynasty terra cotta warriors and horses, bronze carriages and horses, ancient jade burial suits sewn with gold thread, wooden mechanisms, bronze wares, and painted pottery as well as the mobile celestial globe. But although he has had many opportunities to develop his scientific and technological knowledge, he has preferred to give himself to his painting. One would have to say that he lives just for painting birds and animals of every kind.

Painting, including calligraphy, was not a profession in ancient times. People engaged in those arts in their spare time to express their feelings and aspirations. Those who have won a good reputation in this field throughout the ages have needed rich experience in life, rich experience in culture and art, and fine artistic skills.

Mi Xiubin has all of these. He tried many kinds of work for survival when he was young. He went through his ups and downs and therefore has a deep understanding of life. His explorations in science and technology and his achievements in these fields have broadened his vision and his mind. Although he did not receive systematic training in a special academy, he has studied the traditional paintings of famous masters and gained great knowledge from copying their works. As a result, his painting skills have risen to a high level, and it is only natural that his efforts in painting should yield such progress because of the experience gained through his professional background.

Mi concentrates on studying tradition and nature. From traditional works, he has learned and mastered the skill of expression. Through observation of nature he has increased his understanding and his techniques of drawing from life and derived fresh

feeling and inspiration. In the past few years, he has visited many countries in Europe, Asia, and North America and observed all kinds of animals there with great interest, studying their shapes, movements, and expressions in different living conditions.

He sketches them in Chinese style. He keeps them in his mind, including his impressions of, feelings for, and conceptions of them and draws them with his plan well thought out. His sketches of birds and animals are not ordinary but depict objective things drawn with subjective feeling. His works show some exaggeration and fabrication, but he has paid attention to the appearance of his subjects and knows well how difficult it is to express the personality of a subject without its basic appearance.

At the same time, he tries his best to show his inner feelings in his paintings. In his own words, he wants to depict the soul of nature and thus express his own thoughts about nature through his painting of nature's objects. In his works we see not only birds and animals in different shapes and with different expressions but also, in a certain sense, the personalization of them.

This is the artistic world created by Mi Xiubin. It exerts a favorable influence on people's feelings and spirits. It leads people to talk with those creatures in nature who are, after all, their friends and exchange feelings with them. It encourages people to get along with those friends and treasure their lives. At the same time, the images he creates with ink, the intelligence expressed in his paintings, and his unique skills make viewers feel happy and excited.

Mi is an accomplished painter, but he knows well that the sea of artistry is boundless. He has a lot of subjects to study. He has to practice, study, and review his experiences constantly so he can go forward towards his aspirations and goals. We hope we can see more of his beautiful paintings.

SHAO DAZHEN
CENTRAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, BEIJING
DECEMBER 3, 2001

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少年壮志寄河山 A Tiger Cub with Great Aspiration



君子一言 A Word Once Spoken Cannot Be Taken Back Even by a Team of Four Horses