

ARTS AND CULTURE



21世纪新闻英语阅读系列

艺术与文化篇



贾国栋 主编

old him to get along, then I was very angry with him. I told him, 'but the others would not go to school with him any more. I have tried to help him', he says, and he went off on his own. You three oldest boys was little fellows, playin' outside, real hot an' sweaty, an' your father took you to a tank down by the windmill an' took off your clothes an' put you in. Then two box-older trees was little then, but they shade over the tank. Then he took off all his own clothes an' got in with you. While he was playin' in the water, the Methodist preacher drove into our place to say the neighbours was goin' to meet at the schoolhouse to pray for rain. He drove right to the windmill, of which there was your father and you three with no clothes on. He was in the kitchen door, an' I had to laugh, but he acted like he ain't never seen a naked man before. He was embarrassed, an' your father couldn't get to his feet. His eyes was all hangin' up on the windmill to let the wind out of em. So he laid in the tank where he was, an' your boys on top of him to cover him up a little, an' the preacher

When you got the church down from the street, he put clean on and a new shirt on, an' he was 'by then time I'd had supper. He says: 'It's too hot in here to eat. Let's have a picnic in the orchard. We'll eat under the mulberry hedge, under them linden trees.'

and he was very angry with him. I told him, 'but the others would not go to school with him any more. I have tried to help him', he says, and he went off on his own.

"When you talked to him, he was very angry with you, wasn't he?"

"We never got any crop," he says. "I got none. All the corn in this country is a clock today, like you'd roasted it in an oven."

"You mean you won't get no crop?"

"I couldn't believe it, after he'd worked so hard. 'No crop this year,' he says. 'I'm haying a picnic. We might as well enjoy it now.' An' that's how your father belittled the neighbours was so discouraged they couldn't face it. An' we enjoyed ourselves that year. Our neighbours was a lot better off for a while, but they got poor again when they did have a crop."

The younger boys said they thought he was a fool. But Rudolf was thinking of the neighbours had nothing to do with it. Since that time, there must be some other way of doing things. He was

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1. Antique^① Map Fair Opens in Miami

Antique map dealers and collectors from as far as Australia and Argentina are in Miami^② for what is described as the premier annual map fair held in the Western Hemisphere. Some of the maps on display go as far back as the 1500s, and reveal a great deal about the challenges early explorers faced, and the geo-political attitudes held by cartographers^③ from centuries past.



Maps of every size and geographical region plaster^④ the walls of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, attracting throngs of people, from life-long collectors to the simply curious. One of the coordinators of the event, Jodi Weitz, says the maps are stunning^⑤ pieces of art and fascinating historical documents. “I like to see the artwork that goes into them, the detail, the way they have been so carefully preserved,” she said. “You can see the type of paper that was used 300,400 years ago, and inks that were used. The pieces look unbelievable. You can’t believe the shape they are in.”

British map collector and dealer David Bannister says he has been coming to Miami since the yearly event began in 1994. He says the

① antique *adj.* 古时的, 过时的

② Miami *n.* 迈阿密 (美国佛罗里达州东南部港市)

③ cartographer *n.* 地图制作者, 制图师

④ plaster *vt.* 粘贴

⑤ stunning *adj.* 极漂亮的, 令人震惊的

average person would be hard-pressed^① to acquire anything of a historical nature dating back^② 300 to 500 years. Maps, he says, are an exception. "Map collecting is really quite extraordinary, because it is still possible to buy 16th century items on paper," he said. "I mean, go try to find a 16th century teaspoon or a fork or something. You can't find them, and if you can, they are not affordable."

Most maps range in price from several hundred to several thousand dollars. Many are ornate^③, inscribed with notations about various regions of the world and decorated with drawings. Perhaps the most spectacular item on display is a map printed in Venice in 1511, one of the earliest-known maps to chart at least a portion of the Americas, including two separate representations of Cuba.

The seller of that map, New York dealer Robert Augustyn, says antique maps were used for a variety of purposes, including furthering the territorial ambitions of colonial powers. "The more time you spend with maps, especially early maps, the more clear it becomes that they were politically-charged documents," said Mr. Augustyn. "For example, there's an area on this map called 'Regalis Domus' based on a finding by Portuguese discoverers. It was placed more east than they actually are so that it fell into the demarcation^④ line that divided the New World between the Portuguese and the Spanish. They made sure that this land fell into the domain of the

① hard-pressed *adj.* 处境困难的

② date back 追溯到

③ ornate *adj.* 装饰的, 华丽的, (文体) 绚丽的

④ demarcation *n.* 划分

Portuguese.”

Some of the maps on display bear a close resemblance to modern maps, showing continents and islands with a surprising degree of accuracy. Others are almost comically inaccurate, detailing land masses that never existed, or entire continents in a shape or scale that might make a modern cartographer chuckle. For instance, one map shows Brazil as a dot in the Atlantic dwarfed by the British Isles.

The founder of the Miami map fair, local collector Joseph Fitzgerald, says early map-makers did the best they could with the tools at their disposal. “It’s amazing how well they did, considering the highest they could get was the mast of a ship, which might be 60 feet (19 meters in height),” he said. “Up until the 1600s, they didn’t even have triangulation^①.”

New York map dealer Robert Augustyn says he marvels at the courage of early explorers who risked their lives in uncharted waters. “One gains a tremendous respect for the explorers who set out with only maps like this as a very general guide,” he said. “But that’s the excitement of looking at these maps. They show the process of the unknown becoming less unknown. This is what really grips^② map collectors.”

Not everyone at the map fair is a seasoned aficionado^③. As one tourist visiting Miami from Wyoming commented, in his words, “It’s a thrill to see the earliest attempts to chart our world at a time

① triangulation *n.* 三角测量

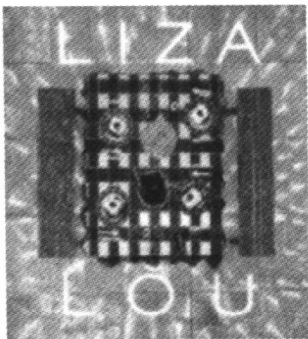
② grip *v.* 抓住

③ aficionado *n.* [某种活动的] 爱好者, ……迷

when we are now trying to map the heavens.”

2. Artist Liza Lou Presents Presidents in Baubles and Beads

As President Clinton prepares to leave the White House, many people have pondered what his legacy will be. Some U.S. Presidents are remembered today for little more than the fact that they held the office. But no matter how well known a President may be, you can be sure his portrait has been preserved for posterity^① in paint, ink, marble or bronze, as well as some less conventional materials. Liza Lou is one artist whose work makes every President sparkle.



She has made a career out of turning everyday environments into something dazzling. She said, “I did a kitchen where the entire room is three-dimensional and every square inch is covered with beads^②. It took me 5 years. And it’s kind of a mosaic technique. I apply them with tweezers^③ and glue so it’s sort of a slow process.”

Liza Lou has also rendered^④ a suburban backyard in beads. But for that project, which required a million blades of hand-beaded

① posterity *n.* 子孙, 后裔

② bead *n.* 珠子, 水珠

③ tweezers *n.* 镊子

④ rendered *v.* 使成为, 提出

grass, she enlisted the help of others. Four years ago, she exhibited a slightly less labor-intensive project: a series of beaded Presidential portraits^①:

“I finished the kitchen,” she said, “the first major piece that I ever did. A lot of people wanted to ask me how many beads and how long does it take. And I was really surprised that people were hung upon the fact that they were beads. It seems to me people had been making art out of gumballs and spitwads and alternative media for a long, long time, so it’s not that unusual to do something other than



paint. But I wanted to do a painting show. I wanted to do a show that was iconic. I’m really interested in American icons, and so who better to do than all of the portraits of all of the Presidents of the United States. Only instead of using paint, again using these beads, really to say this is just another paint, only it’s a lot more sparkly.” Sparkly, but less colorful than Liza Lou’s three-dimensional installations, because the 42 portraits, which are currently on display here in Washington at the Renwick Gallery, are, with the exception of a beaded gold frame, done entirely in black, white and silver beads.

She said, “I wanted to look at this idea of looking at the past, and whenever you are looking at the past there is something about black and white that is really interesting to me. And so I kind of moved from there. I started from the earliest Presidents to the later

① portrait *n.* 肖像, 人像

presidents, so I was early on very inspired. The image of Abraham Lincoln, I was inspired by postage stamps, the image that was most iconic of each man.”

She was asked, “It has got to be much easier to find an iconic image of Abraham Lincoln than say James Polk, or some of the other Presidents. What did you do for some of the lesser-known Presidents?”

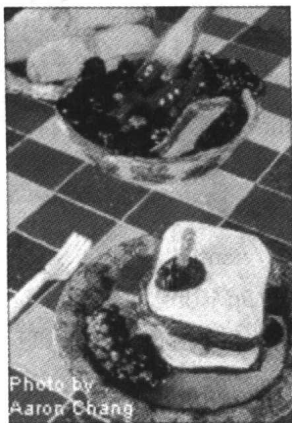


Photo by
Aaron Chang

“I tell you,” she responded, “Rutherford Hayes was the most difficult one. I think for a long time he wasn’t even in the National Portrait Gallery. There wasn’t a portrait of him. Maybe it’s because of that long beard. I don’t know for sure. A lot of people don’t even know who Rutherford Hayes or James Polk was. I certainly didn’t know a lot of these presidents. So it was more difficult to find an iconic image of some of

them, because they just didn’t make it into the Pantheon^① of great Presidents, really.” To create her 42 portraits, Liza Lou did more than transpose^② an iconic image of each President from print to beaded mosaic. She said, “I began first by reading about each President, and then I would make drawings of them and would finally get to putting a drawing on the board that I was going to cover with beads, so it is a drawing, a painting and then this painful application. If I

① Pantheon *n.* 万神殿, 伟人纪念堂

② transpose *v.* 变换, 调换

did it poorly I'd have to pick off all the beads and start all over again, more difficult than painting, where you can keep painting over and over again and arrive where you want. I have to sit there with a chisel^① if it's wrong. It can take a few weeks to do each one. Some went really easily and I could do it in about a week."

"What did you learn about the Presidency and Presidents, working on this series?" she was asked.

"I guess the thing that struck me the most was really this idea that the image has always been important, and that it continues to be," she said. "People criticize the elections today and say that we vote on an image and we vote on personality, as though we never did. When you look at it historically we always have looked at style. You had to have a certain style. You had to come from humble beginnings. You had to have a log cabin story. You had to have raised yourself and made yourself your own man."

"And I just kind of have a fondness now for this office," she continued. "There is a folksy^② quality when you study the history of the Presidents. There is a kind of a charm^③ to it, a nostalgia^④ that I didn't have before I began the project. It reminds me of Cézanne who painted apples over and over again to understand what the nature of reality is. If you make portraits of all of the Presidents, bead by bead, you can't help but get really fascinated^⑤ by them."

① chisel *n.* 凿刀, 凿子

② folksy *adj.* 友好的, 坦率的, 无拘束的

③ charm *n.* 吸引力, 魔力, 魅力

④ nostalgia *n.* 思家病, 乡愁

⑤ fascinate *vt.* 使着迷, 使神魂颠倒

She was then asked, “Were you interested in the Presidency or politics until you started this?”

“Absolutely not,” she said. “I’ve never been interested in politics, but now I’m completely fascinated. I’m hooked. I see them as superstars; they’re kind of iconic and fascinating. The meaning behind doing these portraits and covering them with this glass and making them so sparkly is that I am incredibly disillusioned^① I think, like a lot of Americans. This is a way to make them look really good. If campaign promises don’t live up to what they say they are going to, at least there is a room you can go to that exists in the world that is an art piece, but where they look fantastic, where they look otherworldly. They look like what we were supposed to have: this American dream. That is what my work has always strived to do, to live up to those promises. If the world is a terrible place, at least it can look good and that is my only solution as an artist. I’m not a politician, but at least I can make things look a little bit better. I think of that as my skill in life.”

Liza Lou is putting the finishing touches on a portrait of President-elect George W. Bush. On January 20, the day he is inaugurated^② as the 43rd President of the United States, that portrait will join the others on display at the Renwick Gallery. In the years to come, Ms. Lou plans to add future Presidents to the series as well.

① disillusion *n.* 醒悟

② inaugurate *vt.* 举行开幕（落成、成立）典礼

3. Backstreet Boys Have a New Album!

The “boy band” phenomenon in pop music continues to escalate^①, with 'N Sync, 98 Degrees and the Backstreet Boys all competing for the loyalty of international fans. Following a flurry^② of advance publicity and personal appearances, the Backstreet Boys have released their latest album “Black & Blue”.



With career worldwide album sales totaling 55 million, the Backstreet Boys launched their new release “Black & Blue”, with a 4-day, 6-continent promotional tour. In their private jet, they circled the globe in 100 hours, met fans and gave impromptu mini-concerts along the way. They also enlisted a volunteer “Online Street Team” of 15,000 fans who helped promote album sales. Recording “Black & Blue” at Compass Point Studios in the Bahamas, Backstreet Boy Howie Dorough tells how the five-man group decided which songs were to be included on the album.

“The last couple of albums, we were very fortunate enough to have the great producers from Sweden and a lot of producers from the States, that, in the early stages, when we were just learning, we kind of picked their brains just to get a lot of the material from

① escalate *vi.* 逐步升高, 逐步增强

② flurry *n.* 激动不安, [突然的] 紧张慌张

them,” he said. “Throughout the years, the last couple albums, we’ve been fortunate enough to get a lot more material of our own on there. When we took the trip down to the Bahamas, we actually wrote about 7 songs, but 2 of them actually made it for the album.”

“Black & Blue” by the Backstreet Boys currently sits in the Number One spot on the Billboard Magazine albums chart, unseating another former “boy band” known as The Beatles. The Backstreet Boys sold 1.6 million copies of their album in the U.S. its first week of release, but fell short of ‘N Sync’s first-week sales record of 2.4 million. The Backstreet Boys did, however, set an international record by selling more than five million copies, and are the first group in the past decade to score more than a million sales the first week with back-to-back albums.

Member A.J. McLean explains why he thinks the group is more unified than ever. “I think probably because we went through a point in our career where we had no management, we had no guidance, we had nobody really pushing us along except each other,” A.J. Mclean says, “We kind of grouped up and just kind of made it through the tough times. Taking this last trip to go down to the Bahamas to write for the very first time together as a group, and as a team, and as a family, it just brought us together. It was just the best bonding experience for us ever. And I can sincerely say, we are the tightest we have ever been.”

In their busy schedule, the Backstreet Boys find time for their personal charity^① and humanitarian organizations. Brian Littrell

① charity *n.* 慈善, 施舍, 慈善团体

founded the Healthy Heart Club For Kids, based on his own struggles with a heart defect. Howie Dorough lost his sister to lupus^① 2 years ago, so he is an active fund-raiser for disease research. The Backstreet Boys will be on tour in the U.S. from January to March. They'll visit South America in April, tour Europe in June, and are planning dates in the Far East. They'll return to North America for a summer stadium tour.

4. Boston Museum Displays 'Dangerous Curves: The Art of the Guitar'

The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts recently began showing a collection of guitars. The exhibit is called, "Dangerous Curves: The Art of the Guitar". It shows how the instrument developed during the past four centuries.

Probably no other musical instrument is as popular around the world as the guitar. Musicians use the guitar for almost every kind of music. Country and western music would not be the same without a guitar. The traditional Spanish folk music called Flamenco could not exist without a guitar. The sound of American blues music would not be the same without the sad cry of the guitar. And rock and roll music would almost be impossible without this instrument.

Music experts do not agree about where the guitar first was played. Most agree it is ancient. Some experts say an instrument very much like a guitar was played in Egypt more than 1,000 years ago. Some other experts say that the ancestor of the modern guitar

① lupus *n.* [医] 狼疮