



惠山泥人

Huishan Clay Figurines

无锡市泥人研究所编

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## 惠山泥人简介

· 陈近 ·

“惠山泥人”是有悠久历史传统的民间艺术，相传起源于明代。在无锡当地艺人长期的艺术实践下，逐步形成了质朴、简练的表现技法和浓郁的乡土气息——惠山泥人的地方风格特色。

惠山泥人的品种较多，一般可分两大类：一类叫做“泥粗货”，采用模具印坯，塑型概括，彩色明快，表现内容多以人民群众所向往的喜庆吉祥等美好生活为题材。这些以胖娃娃或狮、虎、狗、猫、鸡等动物形象的塑造，是与人民群众的生活习俗，紧密联系着的；另一类叫做“泥细货”，是传统的“手捏泥人”，习惯称为“手捏戏文”。其创作题材多取自戏曲或舞蹈的表演情节，这类“手捏泥人”作品，现在见到最早的也只有清末的周阿生、丁阿金等“昆腔戏”泥人了。

惠山泥人研究所为了继承和发展泥人艺术，培养新一代的艺术创作人材，在继承传统的基础上，进行了创新的探索。

在“百花齐放，推陈出新”方针的指引下，惠山泥人这一朵民间艺术的花朵，将会得到更大的发展，并更加丰富多彩。

一九八一年二月

## Publisher's Note

The clay figurine made at Huishan, known as 'Huishan clay figurine,' has a time-honoured standing. The clay figurine handicraft at Huishan in the city Wu Xi reputedly stems from the Ming dynasty. The formation of the folk art of clay sculpture is made possible by the accumulated experience of the handicraftsmen in that city across many generations.

Huishan clay figurine is characterized by its artistic endeavour in plain execution and rich flavour of rustic simplicity. Among the multifarious clay figurines there are principally two categories as follows:

1. Those made by model are noted for their clear-cut moulding and bright colours, covering a wide range of subjects for what symbolizes felicity, jubilation and the happy life among the people as well as the familiar objects of the populace, such as fatty doll, lion, tiger, dog, cat, cock, etc.

2. Those made by moulding with hand are usually known as 'handmade legendary figures,' the subject matter of which is mostly demonstrating an opera plot or a dance performance. Of this category the earliest clay figurines extant today are only those of Kunqu opera made by the noted clay sculptors Zhou A-sheng and Ding A-jing towards the end of the Qing dynasty.

There has been established a research institute in Wu Xi for the study of the clay figurine handicraft with a view to well preserving the tradition and further development of the folk art, and, moreover, helping to train a new generation of artisans going in for the task of innovation. Under the guidance of the literary and artistic policies: "Let one hundred flowers blossom; weed through the old and to bring forth the new," the clay figurine handicraft will, we trust, meet with new successes on the way leading to far greater enrichment and prosperity.

## 目 录

1. 阿福·····传统作品
2. 水斗·····传统作品
3. 说书·····传统作品
4. 牧童·····传统作品
5. 小板戏·····传统作品
6. 西厢·····柳成荫
7. 海棠结社·····陈 钢 张小权
8. 钟馗嫁妹·····王运连
9. 迎春·····赵建高
10. 大脸谱·····池志坚 王南仙
11. 六童戏弥陀·····周金根 王南仙
12. 游园·····王国栋
13. 祝寿·····柳家奎 丁仲芳
14. 哪吒闹海·····王运连
15. 和合·····盛伟平 王南仙
16. 男女童·····赵建高

## List of Plates

1. Fatty doll
2. Combating in water  
-----an episode in "White Snake Legend"
3. Storyteller
4. Cowboy
5. Actors in stage costume
6. A scene in the play "West Wing Stories"
7. Crabapple fraternity  
-----an episode in "Red Chamber Dream"
8. Marriage of Zhong Kui's sister
9. To greet the New Year
10. Stage makeup
11. Six children playing with Buddha
12. Garden party
13. Many happy returns!
14. Na Zha fighting on the sea  
-----an episode in "Feng Shen Bang"
15. Harmonious union
16. Boy and girl



1. 阿福  
传统作品









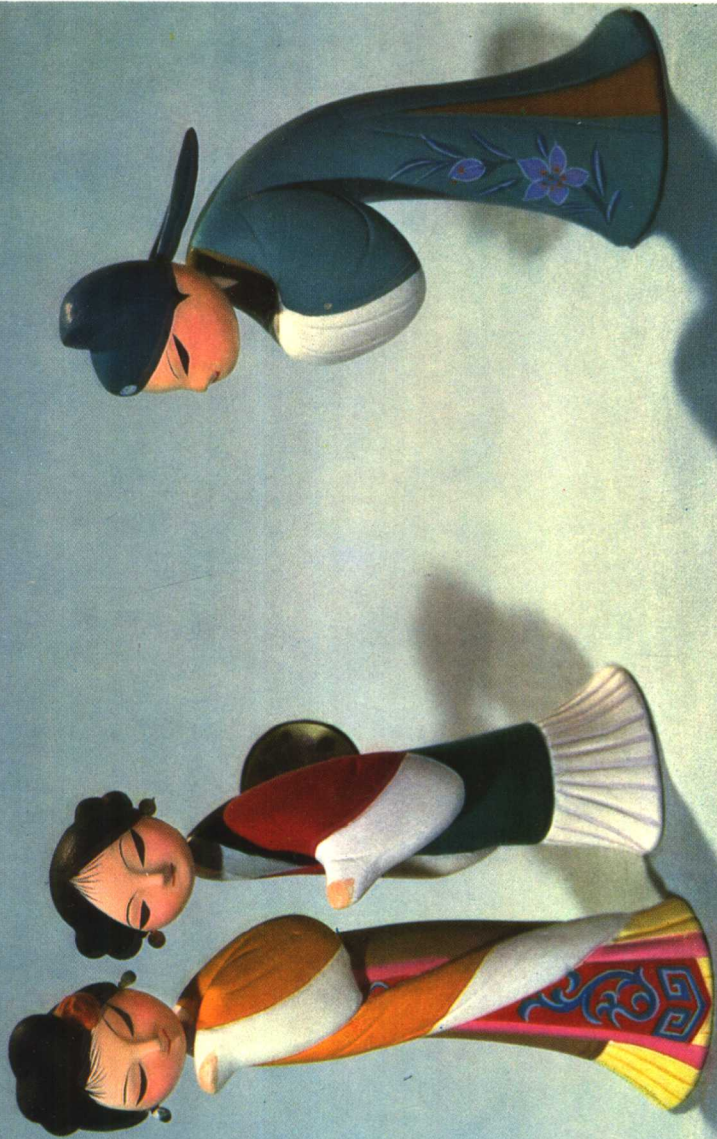
3. 说书 传统作品

4. 牧童  
传统作品











7. 海棠社  
陈钢  
张小权













10. 大脸谱

池志坚 王南仙

11. 六童  
戏弥陀  
周金根  
王南仙

