



by Guan Yiming

World-Renowned Artists

世界艺术家在上海 管一明 摄

in Shanghai

上海文化出版社

SHANGHAI CULTURE PUBLISHING HOUSE



图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

世界艺术家在上海: 英文/ 管一明摄. —上海: 上海文化出版社, 2009

ISBN 978-7-80740-452-1

I. 世… II. 管… III. 名人—生平事迹—世界—摄影集
IV. K811-64

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2009) 第123135号

出 版 人 陈鸣华
责任编辑 王建敏

策 划 张东敏 吴国良 李志良
中文撰稿 张 明 王建敏
文字审核 葛海萍
英文翻译 舒 瑾 张志颖
整体设计 袁银昌 夏青子

书 名 世界艺术家在上海

出版发行 上海文化出版社

地址: 上海市绍兴路74号

网址: www.shwenyi.com

印 刷 上海界龙艺术印刷有限公司

开 本 889 × 1194 1/20

印 张 11

图 文 218面

版 次 2009年10月第1版 2009年10月第1次印刷

国际书号 ISBN 978-7-80740-452-1/J · 229

定 价 120.00元

告读者: 本书如有质量问题请联系印刷厂质量科 T: 021-62670888

Dedicated to Shanghai—the beautiful and open city.

Dedicated to all the distinguished guests.

World-Renowned Artists in Shanghai

Guan Yiming

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Preface 1

Qian Wenzhong

Not long ago, Mr. Guan Yiming, the press photographer from *Shanghai Radio & TV Weekly*, visited me and brought me the proofs of his album—*World-Renowned Artists in Shanghai*. After carefully reading through the book, I cannot help but admiring him for doing such a great job.

As a press photographer, Guan Yiming regards photography as his “beruf” (another term for “career” used by M. Weber). Mr. Guan Yiming started his career as a professional photographer as early as in 1979 and has published thousands of photographs since. Many of them have been exhibited at various international and national photographic art exhibitions, winning tens of prizes. His series including *Southeast of Guizhou Province*, *Odes to Heavens*, and *Russia Impression* enjoy such great popularity that they have been collected by various famous libraries. Therefore, Mr. Guan Yiming’s photography career can be confidently considered as a really artistic one.

The album he brought me this time is his new collection that had taken him ten years’ painstaking effort. He used his lens, or more accurately, his mind, to observe, reveal, read, and understand tens of world-famous singers, jazz celebrities, music conductors and performers, and movie artists. The result that we

see today is so beautiful and rich in content that needless to say, the collection would become part of our memories and the distillation of history.

Art knows no boundaries. This can be used to define this album and the personal belief that Mr. Guan Yiming cherishes. It also honestly describes the modern life in Shanghai. Up till 2008, China has followed the open-up and reform policy for thirty years. During these years, Shanghai was back to its past glory with all the glamorous memories, melodies and colours. This pearl in the East is becoming the world treasure with its amazing confidence and speed. The culture and art of Shanghai have a heart that beats with the pulse of the world. World-level stars have kept coming to the city, especially in the past ten years. With his persistence in developing his career, and his professional qualities such as a unique artistic taste and sensitive lens language, Mr. Guan Yiming discovered, captured and interpreted numerous lively moments. This process is more than recording; it is discovering and interpreting, and so can be regarded as a creative process.

What touches me most is that in Mr. Guan Yiming's lens, all these world-renowned celebrities seem to walk out of their "divine" glamour on the red carpet and show their underlying human nature that has made them successful. Let us take a look at a few fragments: Pavarotti holding a mike interviewing Wei Song, Domingo indulging in his aria, the expression in Carreras's eyes that overshadows life itself, Bocelli's smile that perceives everything for him, Brightman looking up to the music god in her heart, Kenny G performing

elegantly in a fog of music, Perlman decoding fate with his music, and Marceau's western beauty in the East... The album demonstrates these international celebrities' human nature, emotions and mentalities from unique perspectives, fixing their great images in Shanghai.

In the album, Shanghai, the city where we were born and grew up in, serves as the stage for these global artists and for Mr. Guan Yiming himself. Both of the artists in front of the lens and Mr. Guan Yiming behind the camera witnessed, created, recorded, and interpreted the contemporary history of Shanghai. In history, Shanghai was a place that "censored" international art. Only by being accepted by Shanghai, could any artist be remembered by the Chinese history. Today, Shanghai has been introduced to the world again and soon becomes a stage for artists from all over the world. Stars shine in the skies of Shanghai with a wish to be loved. If they are well received, they will make unprecedented success, benefiting both themselves and the audience.

This is also the achievements made by Shanghai as an important part of the world.

I sincerely thank Mr. Guan Yiming for inspiring me so much through his lens. I may not be qualified to interpret his works of art even though I am invited to write the preface for him. I know my writing is far from paralleling his work.

Preface 2

A Cultural Symbol that Crosses the Borders Interpreting Guan Yiming's Portrait Photography

Xu Demin

When modern China has woken from its long dream, it is like the flying apsaras that returned from the heaven. It dances with its long sleeves and scatters its cherished music to the world.

China, as a significant part of the world, has gained strength and vitality like it has physically developed again, attracting attention from all over the world. Shanghai, being an important city of China, is also attractive with its beautiful skyline, fast tempo, exquisite style, and generous manners. "Angels" and "nightingales" from all parts of the world are flying here to dance, sing and celebrate before this fascinating Chinese apsaras.

This is the age that China is most proud of and confident about, which is also the first impression left on me when I read through Guan Yiming's album of world cultural celebrities.

Guan Yiming is an established photographer in the circle of modern Chinese artistic photography. He infuses modern concepts in his urban photography to produce works that combine avant-garde experiments with conservation of classic features, which has been considered amazing by the Shanghai

photography circle.

Since China adopted its open-up and reform policy, the world has reached a consensus that to understand and feel China, one has to go to Shanghai. Superstars, especial those who enjoyed world popularity, have kept coming to Shanghai for visits. Guan Yiming took the trouble to track, to shoot them from a close distance, discovering and capturing numerous lively moments. He presented their activities and mentalities in Shanghai so incisively that his works have achieved great cultural and artistic effects of world-levels.

In one of Guan Yiming's photographs, the famous Italian singer Pavarotti, who was the top tenor in the world, holds the mike for Wei Song, a singer from Shanghai. The master was so attentive that we come to understand how charming he was as a senior and how much admiration he felt for Wei Song. We can even hear the "voiceover"—only a country strong like China can get such good treatment from such a world-level superstar.

It is hard to believe that a blind person can produce such a great voice of a singer. Andrea Bocelli's heavenly voice moves the whole world and fascinates numerous Chinese people. In Guan Yiming's lens, Andrea Bocelli opens his eyes that are almost godlike. They are opened for civilization and the world. It is Guan Yiming who lets us feel the happiness and passion of a blind artist at that moment.

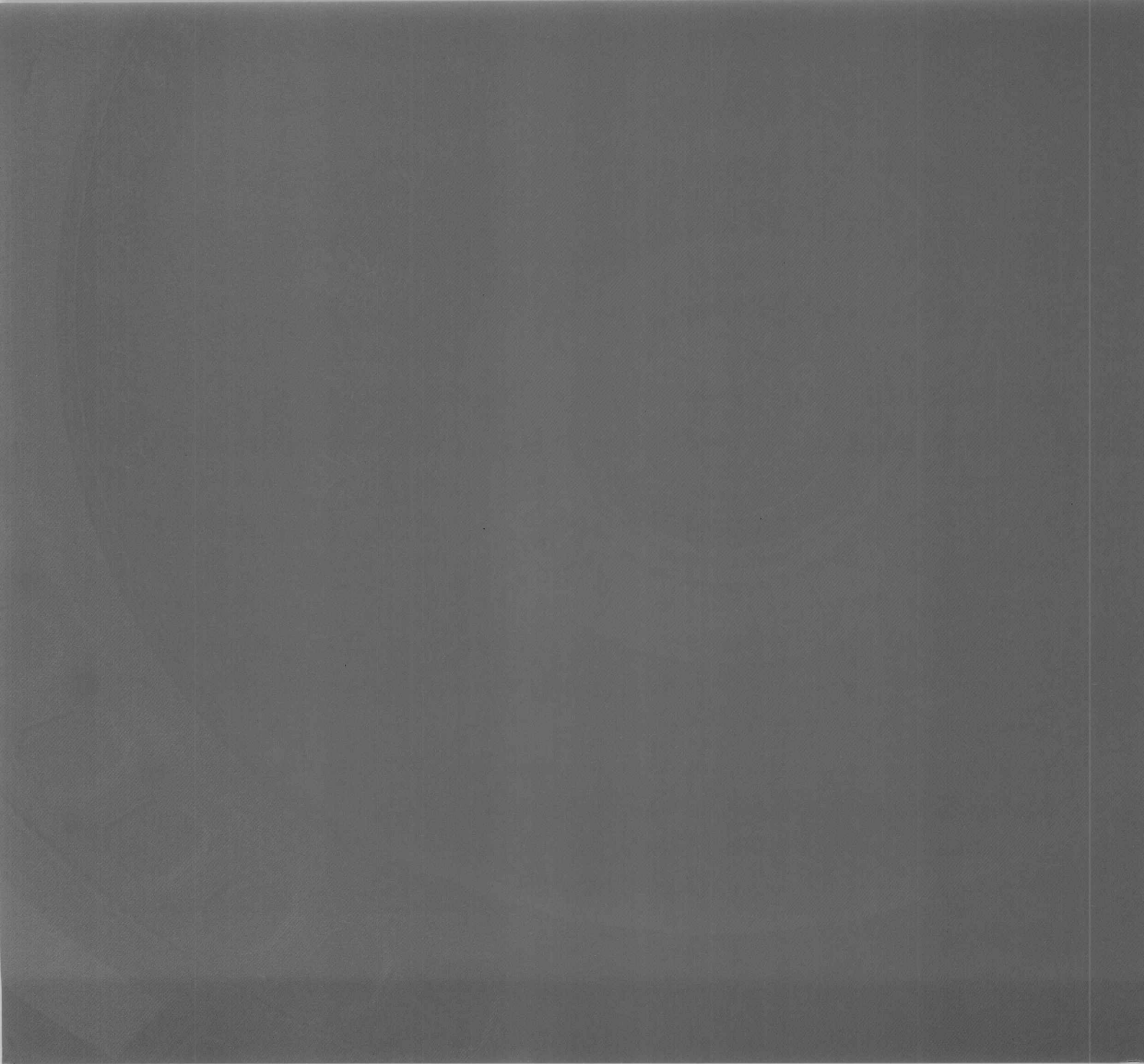
The world-renowned violinist Perlman is a passionate artist. He visited Shanghai in his wheelchair. When he took out a professional camera and aimed the lens to the crowd that was welcoming him, he gave his best wishes to the city, and Guan Yiming was sensitive enough to capture this moving moment.

Guan Yiming's lens has recorded Domingo's amiability, Carreras's good and cool looks, Mehta's attentiveness, and Kenny G's romanticism. It also captured the images of the famous, attractive French actress Sophie Marceau, British "spice girl" Victoria, and American nightingale Mariah Carey, who left their beautiful images and vivid smiles in Shanghai. They are the cultural ambassadors from all over the world, who have brought the real world in front of us.

Time affords us both tradition and new trends; space sets boundaries between countries. In the contemporary world, what decides the gaps between cultures? How should we define the intension and extension of human nature?

The world is united by human beings' common spirit that crosses all borders. Chinese people's artistic dream is coming true. Guan Yiming's works symbolize civilization, and show the real look of the world and the human nature. Human nature knows no boundaries, and so does art.

Thanks to Guan Yiming, I have had a great experience that brings me so close to the human nature and the world's civilization.



SINGERS