

ARTIST'S STATEMENT (1993)

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Lucy Lippard had once stated that The United States of America like a melting pot, melt together all the cultural differences into one big nation. Well, hardly so. Just look at New York City, in New York City, there is Little Italy, Chinatown, Korean town, Harlem, Jewish Community and others. All preserve their unique cultures they inherit from their motherland. The Chinese in China Town are the most typical. Everything remains very Chinese!

The elder generation who resided in New York Chinatown was mostly shopkeepers, who had emigrated from China with traditions, traditions of the livelihood types. They were less educated, just hardworking people. The ones who had had skills were the cooks, barbers, tailors and carpenters. Twenty years ago, we walked in the streets in Chinatown, we saw arrays of signs along the shops. The letters and characters on those signs were awkwardly composed. We believe that those signs were done by carpenters who did this line of works on the side. But because of their awkwardness, we recognized their freshness. The composition of these Characters had a unique style, if you looked at them in a non-traditional way.

Inspired by this otherness of calligraphy, I came to an idea of painting a group of works based on the subject of Folklore, painting icons of Gods and Goddesses. In order to mark the significance of the root culture in foreign soil, I imitated the sign writings of Chinatown on the titling in the paintings. Eventually, I completed 15 paintings and sold it an advertising company in New York City.

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