

東西雜誌



WestEast  
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# Zhang Dali 《张大力》

Born in Heilongjiang in 1963. Graduated in 1989 from the Department of Book Binding and Decoration Art of the Central Academy of Industrial Arts. Went to Italy to study in 1989. Now a resident in Beijing and a professional artist. Various works on show at galleries in Beijing, Italy, Germany, London and Japan from 1989 till present day.

## In what circumstances can you produce good works?

Hard to say. I think it's when I am very excited and want very much to express myself.

## Is there any piece of work that you love so much you are reluctant to sell?

Of course there are things that I like and keep for my own.

## Do you regard yourself as rich?

I'm doing fine. I am not a poor guy either spiritually or materially.

## Artistically, have you been influenced by great masters before you?

When I was in college I was much interested in other people's styles, like Picasso. They will have an impact on my thoughts before I start working on something.

## How does your Chinese background influence your work?

Very great influences. Your driving force and your spiritual well are all in here.

## Is there any difference between the eastern and western people's appreciation of your works?

Yes. Generally my work can be understood by most westerners, but only a small number of the easterners get it. It should have something to do with their educational background.

## Why do you choose to live in Beijing?

I am very familiar with this city. When I decided to come back from Italy, it was because that I felt the impulse. I wanted to come back to the land of China and express my own thoughts about art.

## Describe your feelings about China today in one sentence.

It's changing too quickly. It's difficult to see her real face. And changes in social institutions are falling far behind.

## Summarize your own experiences.

I am from the North East, but grew up in Jingde County. My interest in art was brought on by the fine china there. I didn't go to where I was supposed to work after graduation from college and led a vagrant life. Then I went abroad in 1989, learned the foreign language, worked here and there, and pursued art. I came back to Beijing in 1996. I think that the happiest thing for a person is to live in accordance with his principles. I am very content with my life at present.

