

# Embarking on artistic journey with unwavering commitment and zeal

Jiang Lei and Jiang Mengyu

LUO Shaoyuan is a shining light in a society where dedication and passion are intertwined.

A graduate of Shanghai Jiading No. 1 High School, Luo has demonstrated the power of combining natural talent with unrelenting commitment.

Her outstanding academic standing and creative accomplishments helped her gain admission to Tongji University majoring in art and design, which has long held the top spot in Asia in the QS World University Rankings by Subject and is a popular choice among students studying the arts.

Luo has always had a passion for the arts. Her creative output beautifully captures the vivid landscapes in her thoughts. Intricately painting portraits of her friends and decorating the classroom's blackboards with her works, Luo's artwork demonstrates her insight and natural creativity.

Zhou Lijuan, her teacher, remembers lovingly how Luo's artwork once turned her into a lifelike comic figure.



Luo Shaoyuan is a major of art and design at Tongji University.

This unique perspective stems from an inherent gift, as Luo's keen eyes consistently see beauty in the ordinary.

Zhou says Luo is a spirited individual who has consistently been praised for her talent and has earned numerous awards.

However, there are obstacles on the path to artistic brilliance. In the field of art, there are many naturally gifted individuals and those who have received formal training from a young age.

Luo didn't have an advantage in the competitive field of art examinations.

"When I see formidable opponents online or during mock exams, I do feel pressure," admits Luo.

With resilience in her heart, she weathered moments of doubt



Luo's portrait of Zhou Lijuan depicts exaggerated features and a whimsical, cartoonish style. — Photos by Jiang Lei

and pressure, using them as stepping stones toward her aspirations.

She developed the habit of painting for more than 10 hours every day. She kept a straight face, though, and worked quietly to hone her abilities.

When experiencing a creative block, Luo would struggle for days to create the desired image.

To overcome this, she would repeatedly analyze the strengths of different artworks and review their creation processes.

She eagerly absorbs references from various sources, consults her peers and teachers, and retains all of the advice they give her.

She ultimately achieved a breakthrough in her abilities after gaining knowledge and honing them day by day, breaking through her creative limitations.

As she embarks on her next chapter at Tongji University, Luo's story serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring youngsters.



Luo designed this flag for the school sports day.

# Tongji graduate dares to take unconventional route

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WANG Ziyi stands out as a shining example of unwavering integrity and steadfast dedication.

Wang, who majored in traffic engineering at Tongji University, has taken the unconventional route by accepting a teaching assignment in Yuanmou, southwest Yunnan Province, for a year before continuing his postgraduate education, in contrast to most of his peer graduates.

Wang was among the 16 students from over 80 contenders who made it after two rounds of competitions in the university's

volunteer teaching mission.

He will return to Tongji University to finish his postgraduate studies after the volunteer program is over. He intends to spend a year teaching rural youngsters and sharing his knowledge, experiences and values with them.

Wang has his own motivations for being a teacher. His search for genuine experiences extends beyond textbooks.

Earlier this year, after Suzhou Metro Line 11 connected with Shanghai Metro Line 11 at Huaqiao Station, he went on a 200-kilometer subway journey between Dishui Lake in the



Wang Ziyi plans to teach rural children in Yuanmou, Yunnan Province, for a year. — Jiang Lei

Lingang New Area and Taihu Lake in Suzhou, immersing himself in the scenery along the way.

This thirst for genuine encounters is reflected in his decision to teach in China's unfamiliar western regions. He wants to not only contribute but also learn about the rich local cultures.

Wang has always been ardently committed to public welfare. He became an enthusiastic participant in numerous disease prevention programs after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With recognition and encouragement from others, I feel meaningful for what I did to help people in need," he said.