



Above: The intricate art of paper quilling requires patience, precision and a skilled hand to create beautiful, three-dimensional designs.

Right: Li Xiao's cake sculptures are incredibly lifelike.



Li Xiao utilizes the art of paper quilling as a creative medium to express her love for life. — Dong Hong

Crafting a fulfilling career in intricate art of paper quilling

Dong Hong and Jiang Mengyu

Li Xiao, an artist closely tied to the essence of oriental aesthetics, lives in Jiangqiao Town's Jinlai neighborhood.

She has breathed life into the delicate domain of paper with over a decade of unwavering dedication, becoming a virtuoso in the ancient art of paper quilling and building a profoundly meaningful career.

Paper quilling, which dates back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279), requires delicate rolls, exact folds and artistic pinches to create beautiful designs.

Li excels at cubism. Her three-dimensional cake sculptures, made from 1-millimeter-wide strips of paper, perfectly mimic the texture of rich chocolate crumbs and the vibrancy of ripe fruit slices. Each piece shows her passion and refusal to hasten creativity.

Li began paper quilling in 2013 while working for a foreign trading company. Her initial foray into this intricate art form was akin to crossing a river by feeling the stones — an endeavor fraught with challenges. But Li persisted due to her passion for the craft.

Li founded the Muyantang Art Studio with her husband, Chen Haihua. They share their origami knowledge through community workshops and educational programs for teachers and kids.

Li's solo exhibition, "Derivation: Illuminating the Secrets of Spring," in Jiading in February showcased the peak of paper quilling expertise with over 40 stunning pieces featuring botanical designs.

"Paper quilling has suffused my life with boundless joy, and my fervent wish is to extend this beauty to a wider audience," says Li.

Diving into the captivating world of jade carving

Liu Ruihan and Jiang Mengyu

QIAN Peixing, a recent graduate of the Shanghai Art & Design Academy with a focus on Jade Design and Craft, is a rising star in the world of jade carving.

His unwavering commitment and passion for jewelry design have inspired him to embark on a new journey this fall semester as a jewelry design major in the Shanghai Jian Qiao University.

The Shanghai native began his search for artistic brilliance with the help of his father and grandfather, who shared a deep interest in traditional culture and intangible legacy.

Throughout his academic career, Qian showed an unwavering commitment to excellence, routinely achieving top honors in his major and overall assessments.

His unwavering focus resulted in a stunning collection of jade carvings, each a monument to the everlasting beauty and

delicacy of this old technique.

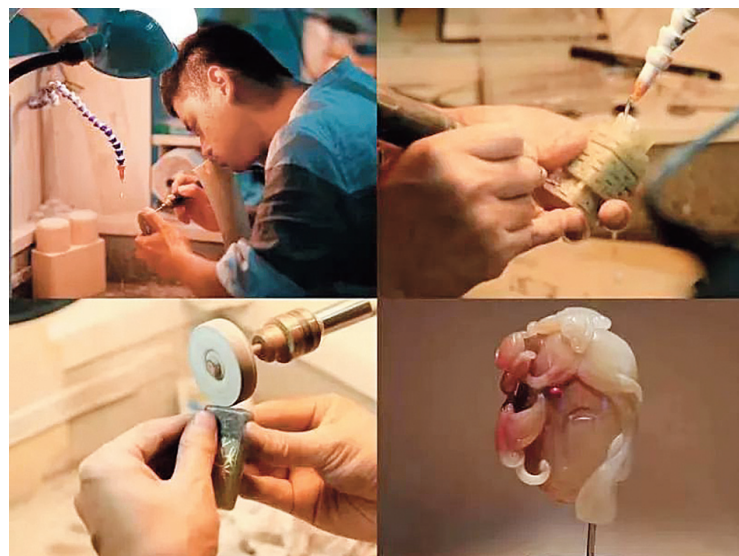
"These exquisite jade carvings breathe new life into the jade itself, and I feel a profound responsibility to preserve and promote this craft," Qian said.

His internship at a prominent jade carving design firm in Shanghai was a significant milestone in his educational path.

The experience exposed him to a world outside of textbooks and classrooms, propelling his skills to new heights. It has also significantly shaped his character with a sense of contemplation and humility.

In the voyage of life, he reflects that, like jade, one must strive to be smooth and malleable, with no sharp edges.

For the moment, Qian's ambition is to bridge the gap between traditional Chinese jade carving techniques and contemporary jewelry design. He sees himself as a curator of China's great jade carving heritage, ensuring its legacy lives on for future generations.



Qian Peixing sets forth on a journey into the intricate realm of jade carving with an unwavering commitment to achieving excellence. — Photos by Liu Ruihan