



HABATAT GALLERIES

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VIVIAN WANG

CHILDREN OF THE PAST



Patchwork - 2012

26 x 13 x 8"
cast glass, stoneware,
pigment powders, oil and
casein paints, steel base

Photo credit: Gregory
Ross

Dragon Moon - 2012

22 x 11 x 11"

cast glass, stoneware, pigment
powders, oil and casein paints,
steel base

Photo credit: Gregory Ross



Habatat Galleries Present -

VIVIAN WANG - CHILDREN OF THE PAST

Exhibition opens October 6th, 2102 8:00pm
continues through October 24th, 2012



My work has always been figurative, inspired by antique Asian art. Initially, I created female figures but my most recent work focuses on children. Part of this body of work, "Children of the Past", centers on Chinese children of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and of China's last dynasty, the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Both of these dynasties placed immense importance on style and fashion.

Some of the sculptures in "Children of the Past" represent Western children of the 1940's and 1950's. This group within a group is named "City Kids" because, in spite of their young ages and moderate circumstances, these children exhibit an urbane flair for sophisticated dress.

Before I became a sculptor, I enjoyed an extensive career in New York as a fashion designer. My sculptures naturally exhibit a great interest in clothing and the figures all have very detailed garments and distinctive fabric patterning.

The "textile-like" surfaces of my work are slightly distressed or "antiqued." In addition, my use of glass components gives my figures almost intangible features. Together, these elements give the sculptures an almost haunting look, hence "Children of the Past."

- Vivian Wang 2012

Younger Sister - 2012

25 x 12 x 8"

cast glass, stoneware, pigment
powders, oil and casein paints,
steel base

Photo credit: Gregory Ross



Baby Qing - 2012

23 x 12 x 10"

cast glass, stoneware, pigment powders,
oil and casein paints, steel base

Photo credit: Gregory Ross



King Pin - 2012

25 x 14 x 11"

cast glass, stoneware, pigment powders,
oil and casein paints, steel base

Photo credit: Gregory Ross



The Baby Emperors

The Qing Dynasty of China officially began in 1644 and lasted until 1911. During this span of 267 years, there were several child rulers whom I have named the “Baby Emperors.”



“Baby Qing” was the second emperor of the Qing Dynasty. His royal name was Shunzhi Emperor and his rule over China began in 1644 at the age of 5. He died at 23 of smallpox after having sired 6 daughters and 8 sons (one of whom became the third emperor). I portray him in casual attire wearing a “rice bowl” hat.



“Kingpin” was the third emperor. He was given the name Kangxi Emperor and began his reign in 1661 at the age of 7. He ruled for 61 years and had 36 sons and 20 daughters. His was the longest reign of a Chinese emperor, a period of great prosperity. My sculpture of Kangxi shows him wearing a “winter brim” hat, a classic hat of that era. Except for very young children, men were never seen in public without their hats.



“Dragon Moon” was the ninth emperor of the Qing Dynasty. I portray him holding a ball which symbolized the moon. The moon was associated with the Mighty Dragon, a symbol of auspicious power. His imperial name was Tongzhi Emperor. He ruled China from the age of 5 in 1861 until he was 19 when he died of smallpox. I show him wearing a “skull cap” and a multi-patterned tunic, both very popular items of clothing at the time.

The Qing Children

During the first 200 years of the Qing Dynasty, images of children were depicted in paintings. The advent of the camera in the early 1800's provided more accurate images. Both the paintings and the photographs inspired me to sculpt my versions of Qing children.



“Drummer” portrays a small boy holding a drumstick and toy drum dressed in court finery. He is celebrating the Lunar New Year. I was inspired by a painting by Jin Tingbiao from the Qing dynasty called “Children at Play.”



“Patchwork” shows a boy sporting a multi-tufted hairdo. He is wearing a side-wrapped tunic, very popular during the Qing Dynasty. The “patchwork” pattern was inspired by a 19th century habit of a well-known Buddhist monk.



“Younger Sister” represents a small girl dressed in multiple layers of embroidered tunics over a long skirt. The proportions of these clothes were typical for girls of that period. The piece was inspired by “Peace and Pleasure”, a painting by an unknown artist from the Qing Dynasty.



“Elder Sister” depicts an older girl wearing a “double bun” hair style indicating she is not yet betrothed. Her court attire comprises a long tunic and jacket over a pale yellow dress. This outfit has a slight western appearance inspired by the highly-praised Jiao Bingzhen, one of the first Qing dynasty painters influenced by the West.

Tang Children



“Brightness” is the first of another series of sculptures portraying noble ladies and their children. I was inspired by the paintings of beautiful women and children created for the upper class society of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). This was China's golden age when fashion and luxuries were readily available and widely represented in stylistic sculptures and paintings of both women and men. “Brightness” illustrates the adoration of a female baby as women were highly regarded during the Tang Dynasty. During this time, women enjoyed many freedoms and privileges which were not seen again in ancient Chinese history.

City Kids



“School Again” represents the first of another series, “City Kids.” These children are wiser and more sophisticated than their years would suggest. The sculptures depict Western children during the late 1940s and early 1950's when times were starting to become more prosperous. “School Again” shows a young girl wearing a classic red jacket and carrying an old leather book bag for her first day back at school.

Elder Sister - 2012

26 x 12 x 8"

cast glass, stoneware, pigment powders,
oil and casein paints, steel base

Photo credit: Gregory Ross



Brightness - 2012

28 x 11 x 12"

cast glass, stoneware, pigment powders,
oil and casein paints, steel base

Photo credit: Gregory Ross



Drummer - 2012

24 x 12 x 8"

cast glass, stoneware, pigment powders,
oil and casein paints, steel base

Photo credit: Gregory Ross



School again - 2012

27 x 14 x 8"

cast glass, stoneware, pigment powders,
oil and casein paints, steel base

Photo credit: Gregory Ross

