

Connect the World with Glass Art

用玻璃艺术，连接整个世界

2019 年春节后的第一周，我从墨尔本驱车八个小时，拜访了理查德·怀特利先生位于堪培拉机场附近的工作室。在那里，我比以往更加直观地看到了一位在国际上富有声望的玻璃艺术家，是如何看待并执着于自己的作品和创作的。在即将结束这一次的拜访之际，理查德先生的妻子，安·伊丽莎白·雅克勒 (Ann Elizabeth Jakle) 女士拉住我俩，让我们一起在他正在进行最后加工的新作前拍摄了一张合影，并建议我们通过社交网络进行分享。在她看来，这虽然仅仅是一张照片，代表的却是一位澳大利亚的玻璃艺术家，和中国的玻璃博物馆之间的紧密联系。

In the first week after the 2019 Spring Festival Holiday, I paid a visit to Richard Whiteley's studio in the vicinity of the Canberra International Airport following an eight-hour drive from Melbourne. In the studio, I gained direct insights into how such an artist of great international renown looks at his works and has remained steadfast in his determination in his creation, which was inconceivable in the past. Towards the end of the visit, his wife Ann Elizabeth Jakle took a photograph of the two of us in front of his new work to which he was putting the finishing touches, and she recommended us to share the photograph via social network. Though seemingly a photograph, it represents the close connection between an Australian glass artist and the glass museum in China.

玻璃艺术的圈子说大不大，说小也不小，但毋庸置疑的是，身处这一圈子的每一个个体、每一位创作者，都在某种程度上、以某些方式彼此相连。比如理查德·怀特利先生，出生于澳大利亚的他，曾师从克劳斯·莫杰 (Klaus Moje)，在澳大利亚国立大学受惠于源源不断的国际艺术家资源，并同全世界的重要玻璃艺术机构有着密切联系。后来，他获得了前往美国西雅图皮尔查克玻璃艺术学校 (Pilchuck Glass School) 进修两期课程的机会，并荣幸地加入了来自捷克的殿堂级玻璃艺术大师——斯坦尼斯拉夫·李宾斯基 (Stanislav Libenský) 和雅鲁斯拉娃·布利赫多娃 (Jaroslava Brychtová) 夫妇的课堂，而这也成为了他一生中最为重要的经历之一。这在他的工作室中也有所印证——我看到李宾斯基的画作，以及理查德先生和李宾斯基夫妇的合照，依旧被视若宝物般地悬挂于工作室的一面墙上。在完成本科学位之后，理查德先生还追随威廉·卡尔森 (William Carlson)，在伊利诺伊大学继续进行深造。有趣的是，那时的某个寒假，他还在罗德岛的普罗维登斯当过斯蒂芬·温伯格 (Steven Weinberg) 的工作室助手，而温伯格，正是在 2011 年 7 月，于开馆伊始的上海玻璃博物馆举办个展的第一位海外艺术家。

Granted, glass art is by no means considered to be a small field; but, no doubt, all the individuals and artists in this field are inextricably bound up with each other to some extent, as it did in the case of Richard Whiteley. Born in Australia, he had been studied with Klaus Moje, took full advantage of international art resources at the Australian National University which maintained close contacts with major glass art institutions across the world. Afterwards, he was offered a scholarship for a two-session course at the Pilchuck Glass School, and earned a place in the class of Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, a couple of glass maestros from Czech. The experience has been constantly in the forefront of his mind, as witnessed by his studio. Libenský's painting and a group photograph of Richard and the couple of Libenský still hang on the wall. After earning a bachelor's degree, Richard pursued further studies at the University of Illinois and followed in the footsteps of William Carlson. In a winter vacation, he served as a studio assistant to Steven Weinberg in Providence, Rhode Island. By coincidence, it was in July 2011 that Steven Weinberg was the first international artist who held his solo exhibition in the Shanghai Museum of Glass since its inception.

在理查德先生结束了求学生涯，并且自己也成为了一名老师之后，在专念于铸造玻璃的艺术创作、寻找属于自己的发声方式的同时，他也没有放缓同整个世界的联系——他勤勉地参与来自全球的展览、活动、研究及教学驻留项目，也广泛接纳着来自世界各地的艺术家们的访问见学。他的学生遍布世界各地，而在其中，诸如凯特·贝克（Kate Baker），金南杜（Namdoo Kim），梅尔·道格拉斯（Mel Douglas）等等都已经成为了在当代玻璃艺术界独当一面的知名艺术家。同时，对中国的玻璃艺术发展颇为关注的他，也曾多次到访中国美术学院玻璃艺术工作室，指导师生的教学与创作，并于2014年担任了由中国美术学院主办的“透器·透气——杭州国际当代玻璃艺术展”的共同策展人。求学及职业生涯颇为丰富的理查德先生，的确可谓是通过玻璃艺术，“与整个世界相连”的代表之一了。

After finishing his education and started his life as a teacher, in the meantime of channeled all his energies into the art of cast glass and explored his own voice of art, Richard never stopped his contacts with the rest of the world. He took part in global exhibitions, studies and residency programs and other related events; and he played host to a number of artists from all parts of the world. His students are scattered throughout the world and some of them have risen to international fame in glass art, such as Kate Baker, Namdoo Kim and Mel Douglas. Moreover, Richard kept abreast with the latest developments of China's glass art. He went to the Glass Studio of China Academy of Art on many occasions to give instructions on teaching. In 2014 he acted as the co-curator of "Breathing through Transparency: International Contemporary Glass Art Exhibition", staged by China Academy of Art at Hangzhou. With a good education and extensive experience,

Richard is the epitome of an international artist who connects with the world by means of glass art.

秉持分享玻璃无限可能的理念，开馆以来，上海玻璃博物馆一直坚持为公众呈现各类精彩纷呈的展览，让玻璃艺术与设计跨越时间、空间和语言文化的藩篱，以各式跨形态的精彩面貌共享于众。在这春意盎然之际，我们也非常高兴和荣幸，能向来到博物馆的观众们呈现又一场代表了国际玻璃艺术顶级水准的海外艺术家个展，来自理查德·怀特利先生的中国首展“illuminated Space—光域”。为了配合这场展览，我们也在上海博物馆、中国美术学院、清华大学美术学院、上海视觉艺术学院等地计划和筹备了一系列面向专业师生的巡回演讲。通过这一位同全世界紧密相连的艺术家在中国的首场个展，通过这一系列旨在分享和联结的活动，我也由衷地希望并期待着，无论是博物馆，还是中国的玻璃艺术，都能在今后，同整个世界产生越来越紧密的联系。

Upon the principle of “sharing the infinite possibilities of glass,” Shanghai Museum of Glass has staged a great variety of exhibitions since its inception. The museum aims for letting glass art and design to break the barrier of time, space and language. Amid the beautiful scenery of spring, we take pleasure in inviting the audience to the latest in a series of world-class glass art exhibitions—the first solo exhibition of Richard Whiteley in China on the theme of illuminated space. In response to the exhibition, we plan a series of toured lectures, facing the academic audience, among the Shanghai Museum, China Academy of Art, the Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University and Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts. Through this first solo exhibition in China of the international artist who connects tightly with the world, and through the activities of sharing and connection, I hope with all my heart that both Chinese museums and glass art will establish closer contacts with the world as a whole.

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