

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Australia-China Institute
for Arts and Culture



25 February - 16 April 2020

Heli Yang

23 moments inspired by the little things that happened in our daily life, telling the stories of three generations of a young migrant family.

Venue:

Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture Gallery,
Building EA.G.03, Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus

Gallery Hours:

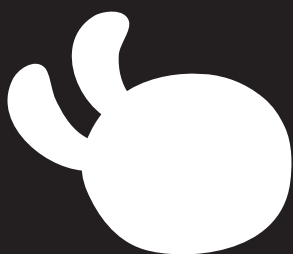
Monday - Friday 10.00am - 3.00pm

Exhibition Opening & Artist Workshop

Date: Monday 16 March, 2020

Time: 1.00 - 2.00pm

Venue: Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture, Building EA.G.03,
Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus





Artist Statement

Being a new migrant and young mum, I use my art to capture my observations and experiences. I gave my newborn daughter a nickname “Tutu (Chinese expression for little rabbit)”. Wrapped up securely in her blanket, she looked at this world, blinking. I couldn’t help thinking to myself, “Darling, we’re starting a new life together. The life you are having is entirely different to the lives I have had and my parents have had”. As an illustration artist, I have been recording the fleeting moments of this new life with my brush. This is a gift of life from me to you and to other young families like ours. The 23 paintings in this exhibition show 23 moments and they are inspired by the little things that happened in our daily life, telling the stories of three generations. There are moments of cultural differences and conflicts, appreciation, expectations, and happiness ...I hope these illustrations create a space for your imagination which you can share with your loved ones.

作为一位年轻的移民、一位母亲，我用绘画来捕捉所见所感。我将刚出生的女儿取名叫“小兔”。襁褓中的她向这个世界眨着眼，我不禁想，“亲爱的小兔，我们将一起开启一段全新的人生”。相对于我和我的父母，“小兔”一定会有一个截然不同的人生。作为一名插画师，我一直都在用自己的画笔记录这段“新生”中转瞬即逝的生活画面，作为人生的礼物，送给你以及像我们一样年轻的家人。展览中的23幅画展现了23个瞬间，启发于生活中的小事，讲述了三代人相处的故事，既有文化差异和冲突，也有相互欣赏、共同期盼和幸福分享……我将更多的想象空间留给读者，希望你们将自己的感受分享给所有你爱的人。



Artist Biography

Heli Yang, born in Dalian, China, is a Sydney based artist. Her artistic flare started from a young age, when she enjoyed expressing herself through drawing and crafting. Heli received a double degree in art and design from UNSW in 2007. Her artworks are inspired by events in daily life which have touched her heart, events that can be a small thing, a person or a trip. “Rabbits have very good memories. They are joyful and full of character, and no two rabbits are the same – just like my art and my experiences”, says Heli.

Selected Exhibition & Features

- **“Art by Design Twelve”**
Selected Group Exhibition in Kinokuniya Wedge Gallery – 2019 Sydney
- **“100 Rabbits / 100 Nights”**
Solo Exhibition in “Long Time No Read” Art Book Shop – 2019 Shanghai
- **“Art by Design Eleven”**
Selected Group Exhibition in Kinokuniya Wedge Gallery – 2018 Sydney
- **“I See You”**
Selected Group Exhibition in In.cube8r Gallery – 2018 Melbourne
- **“The Rabbit Town”**
First Solo Exhibition in Kinokuniya Wedge Gallery – 2014 Sydney
- **Illustrations (Toothy Jack)**
shortlist in the Australia Qantm Create Design Awards 2012 – Desktop Magazine

插画家Heli出生于中国大连，现居住在澳大利亚悉尼。Heli从小就展现出艺术天赋，喜欢用绘画和手工来表达自己。2007年，Heli获得新南威尔士大学设计和数码传媒硕士双学位。Heli的创作灵感来源于生活中令她感动的一件小事、一个人，或者一段旅程。Heli说：“兔子的记忆力很好，它们可爱动人，有自己的特点，没有任何两只兔子是一样的，正如我的画和人生经历一样”。

- “艺术设计十二”群展 - Kinokuniya Wedge Gallery - 悉尼，2019
- “百兔，百夜”个展 - “好久不读”城市人文艺术书店 - 上海，2019
- “艺术设计十一”群展 - Kinokuniya Wedge Gallery - 悉尼，2018
- “看见你”群展 - “In.cube8r Gallery” - 墨尔本，2018
- “兔子城”个展 - Kinokuniya Wedge Gallery - 悉尼，2014
- 插画“Toothy Jack”入围澳大利亚2012年度“Qantm Create Design Awards”



Kindy student

我是小学生

Acrylic on canvas, 2017

布面丙烯

Size: 20cm, Diameter

尺寸：20cm, 直径



Tutu is five years old and has started kindergarten. She looks so grownup in her uniform. The first day of school marks the most important time of our lives. The whole family accompanies her to school on this special day. Tutu's teacher warmly welcomes her and comforts anxious parents with a smile. I am so thankful to her teachers and said goodbye to Tutu's childcare time, "Tutu, please look after yourself. And be yourself! You are unique!"

5岁的小兔入学了，成为了一名小学生，穿着校服的样子很神气。入学这一天是人生的重要时刻之一，爸爸妈妈，姥姥姥爷一起送小兔去学校。小兔的老师热情地欢迎每一个孩子，并给家长最大的安慰。感谢兔兔的老师们，我也陪伴着小兔告别了幼儿园时代。“嗨，小兔，妈妈想对你说，上学要好好照顾自己，每个小朋友都是独一无二的，做好自己。”

Table tennis

乒乓球

Acrylic on canvas, 2016

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸: 30cm, 直径



After dinner, we often play our favourite pastime activity: table tennis. I still remember this was my favourite sport throughout my school life. I still hold grudges against my schoolmate I never beat! "Tutu, I hope you will like this sport as much as I did."

吃好晚饭，收好餐桌，陪小兔打乒乓球，很有意思的饭后活动。记得自己小时候也是这样玩，从小学玩到大学。对一直打不过的对手还是念念不忘。“小兔，希望你喜欢乒乓如我。”

Grandpa's accordion

姥爷的手风琴

Acrylic on canvas, 2018

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Grandpa was crazy about his accordion and he played many well-known pieces which I did not appreciate. I used to hide whenever he played. Now grandpa brought his accordion to Australia and plays to you. "Tutu, I don't know if you like it but life filled with music should not be a boring one."

小时候就一直听老爸疯狂地拉琴，《三套车》，《杜鹃圆舞曲》，《莫斯科郊外的晚上》……可是我一点都不爱，一听到琴声就躲起来。现在老爸又把琴拿到澳洲拉给小兔听，不知道她是否喜欢，我想有音乐的人生应该不会太无趣吧。“小兔，希望音乐可以伴随你。”



Bubble bath

泡泡浴

Acrylic on canvas, 2018

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Tutu loves her bubble bath. She used to have daddy to play with her as she bathed. Watching her happily blowing bubbles, I laughed with envy. I wish I could rewind the time clock and relive my childhood so I can enjoy the same happiness.

小兔喜欢泡泡浴，这也是童年里和爸爸的快乐时光，边吹泡泡边洗澡，羡慕你的幸福时光，我希望我的童年可以重来。



Dry your hair

吹头发

Acrylic on canvas, 2016

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Mum always blow dries Tutu's hair after her shower so she doesn't catch a cold or have to have wet hair, which can be uncomfortable. This everyday affair is a symbol of my love to you. If you look closely, you will find such love and care all around you.

每次洗过澡，妈妈都要给小兔吹干头发，防止着凉，也避免湿答答的头发带来的不舒适感。这是每天发生的平凡小事，可是爱就是这样慢慢积累。请观察一下你身边的小事，寻找一下爱吧！

No.6

Sing a song to mum

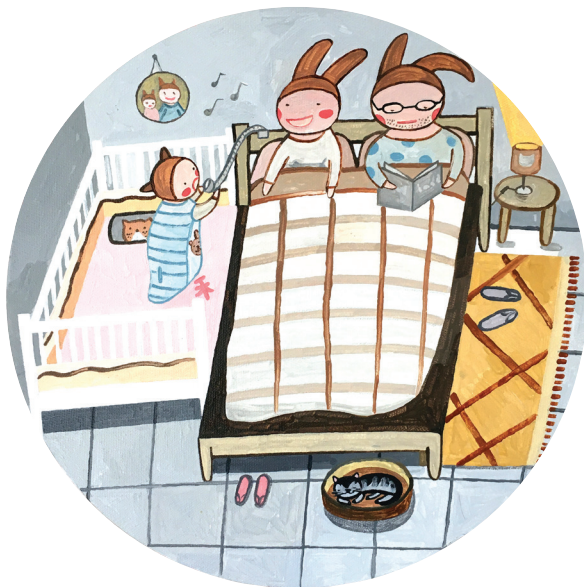
唱首歌给妈妈

Acrylic on canvas, 2017

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Soon it would be bedtime, and we were trying to have some quiet time to get ready for a restful sleep. Tutu pretended the bedside lamp was a microphone, and started her personal concert. I am your one and only loyal audience. And I loved it!

小兔的小床在我们大床旁边，睡觉前大家各自找能让自己安静下来的事情做，小兔拿着床头灯假扮成麦克风，唱首歌给妈妈听。妈妈假扮成忠实听众。一个小游戏，让我们彼此欢心。“小兔，请记住，做事要认真，哪怕一个游戏，你都会享受到快乐的过程。”



Home reading

家庭阅读

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面丙烯

Size: 20cm, Diameter

尺寸：20cm, 直径



Since Tutu started kindergarten, we read books each night before bed. We have a large collection of children's books with colourful illustrations. Reading together is the best thing you can do with your child.

从幼儿园开始，每晚睡前是妈妈和小兔一起的阅读时光，家里有好多绘本，风格各异，阅读时光也是最好的亲子时光。

No.8

Swimming day

游泳日

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Tutu started swimming lessons when she was four years old. She loved swimming and tried her best to be a good swimmer. Within two years, she was able to swim 25 metres unassisted. What an achievement! You are the best!

小兔从四岁开始学游泳，不间断地学了两年。如今她终于可以独立自由泳25米。我们喜欢游泳，小兔好棒！



I am a mermaid

我是美人鱼

Acrylic on canvas, 2017

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



One day Tutu sneaked into my wardrobe and decided to try on my bra. She innocently asked, "mummy, don't I look like a mermaid?" Words can't express how funny this moment was. Do you remember any funny episodes in your childhood? The moments that would bring a smile on your face.

有一天妈妈在衣帽间换衣服，小兔子悄悄进来，把一个胸罩比在胸前跟妈妈说：“你看我像不像美人鱼啊？”这个镜头真是太好笑了！童年真的很天真美好！你是否也记得小时候的趣事？放在心底，留一丝空间，每当想起总会开心一笑！



Space travel

太空旅行

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面丙烯

Size: 20cm, Diameter

尺寸：20cm, 直径



Tutu loves stories about space, just like me when I was young. "Tutu, dream all you can, this is what a childhood all about!"

小兔喜欢听关于太空和星球的故事，正如我的小时候，有很多的梦想。“小兔，妈妈想说，小的时候尽管做梦，享受你的童年吧！”



Fierce quarrel between parents

父母的争吵

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面丙烯

Size: 20cm, Diameter

尺寸：20cm, 直径



Sometimes Tutu became anxious and unhappy when my husband and I argued over trivial matters. I keep telling myself, "I am an adult, I need to manage my emotions better so Tutu learns to communicate in an appropriate manner. I am her role model."

有时候我会和小兔爸爸因为小事而激烈地争吵，小兔会因此很不开心。所以一定要记得在小朋友面前控制情绪，做小朋友的榜样，让他们学会如何去交流。



Horse riding

骑马

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面丙烯

Size: 20cm, Diameter

尺寸：20cm, 直径



Tutu learns horse riding on Sundays. Children are usually given mature aged horses to ride on. There are many horses at the riding school, but Tutu's personal favourite is Cheeky. She gives her a warm hug after each lesson. "Tutu, please learn to handle horses and learn to love them."

周日小兔有一节骑马课，马场里面有很多马，给小朋友上课的马大多数已经很老了，平均都有二十几岁。小兔最喜欢的是一匹叫Cheeky的马，每次结束课后，小兔都会给它们一个拥抱作为感谢。“小兔，你要学会和马近距离接触，学会爱它们。”



Fairy World

精灵之门

Acrylic on canvas, 2020

布面丙烯

Size: 60cm, Diameter

尺寸：60cm, 直径



Tutu had been wondering if the sound of running water in mum's room was her imagination until one day she discovered a magical wall in mum's wardrobe, which turned into a door at night. On one silent night, Tutu carefully opened the door and put on her fairy wings. The wings carried her to a fairy world where she saw many beautiful fairies who shone brightly.

妈妈的卧室里常常会在晚上听到流水声，直到有一天，在妈妈的衣帽间里发现了一面神奇的墙，它夜晚会变成一扇门。小兔悄悄地打开那扇门，带上她的玩具翅膀，飞了出去。在那里她看到了一个神奇的世界，有很多漂亮的精灵，发着光……



Wind on the top of hills

山顶的风

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



We lived near a large field partially surrounded by a hill. We often watched the soccer games on the field while Tutu fed birds residing nearby. In this moment, you could temporarily escape from the sometimes troubling reality and enjoy a relaxing family time.

我们家附近有一座小山，山坡下面有新建的足球场，爸爸妈妈带着小兔在这里观看比赛，小兔可以喂小鸟，山顶的风吹向我们，让人暂时忘掉生活里的烦恼，静静地享受眼下最惬意的家庭日。

First sleepover

第一次在好朋友家过夜

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



During the school holidays, Tutu was invited by her friend Georgie for a sleepover. This was Tutu's first sleepover: a brand-new experience. From the photos and video clips Georgie's mum sent, the two girls had a great time. They read before bed, and they played with the family dog. I am so thankful for this experience; Tutu thoroughly enjoyed her first sleepover!

放假了，6岁的小兔意外地收到了班级小朋友Georgie的邀请，有了第一次在小朋友家过夜的经历。朋友的妈妈把小兔照顾得很好，发来照片和视频。看到她和同学玩得很好，一起在床上看故事书，连小狗狗都很乖。感谢Georgie和她的家人带给小兔第一次不同的人生体验。



Warm hugs

拥抱

Acrylic on canvas, 2020

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Since the start of kindergarten, Tutu would always give her school friends a squeezey hug when they saw each other at school. It is so cute to see this, but I don't remember I ever hugged any of my school friends. I guess this is what we call cultural differences.

从幼儿园开始小兔见到好朋友一定会拥抱，用拥抱来表达内心的欢喜。每天早上在学校门口，她见到好朋友热情拥抱的场面实在是美好。记忆中我的小时候好像从来没有这样热烈地表达过自己，也许这是东西方文化的不同。

No.17

Tutu sleep in her own
bedroom

小兔睡自己的房间啦

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



When Tutu turned six, she moved to her own bedroom. We decorated her room beautifully and she said goodbye to her cot that was in our room. This was a developmental milestone in her growing up. I suddenly remembered how I slept in my grandma's room till high school. I miss her so much!

小兔六岁的时候，我们布置好她的房间，告别她的小床，拥有了自己的房间。这是成长中的小小里程碑。记得小的时候我和奶奶一起睡，一直这样到读初中，我很想念我的奶奶。



Playing piano

弹钢琴

Acrylic on canvas, 2019

布面两端

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Tutu started learning to play piano from a very young age. I often say to Tutu, "Darling, you don't need to be a professional pianist, you just need music to enrich your life and enjoy a life journey that is filled with music." Music tells stories that touch our hearts. Without it, life would be a boring one.

小兔学钢琴，从一本名叫《Tales of a musical journey》的启蒙书开始。每首钢琴曲里都有不同的故事，表达着不同的情绪。“嗨，小兔，学钢琴不需要成为钢琴家，但你可以有音乐人生，开启一段音乐之旅。”



Ice-cream van

冰激凌车

Acrylic on canvas, 2018

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Tutu loves to buy ice cream from the ice cream van passing our streets. Every time she hears the music, she will grab a golden coin and wait excited by the door. To be frank, the ice cream isn't the best you can find, but it is part of Tutu's childhood memory. I still recall buying the popcorn, made from a strange, loud machine. It attracted every child in the neighbour to line up for the freshly popped popcorn. It was the best snack in the 80's – my favourite childhood memory.

冰激凌车小喇叭里放着一串音乐，叮叮咚咚地走街串巷。一听到音乐，小兔就赶紧拿好一块钱，冲到粽子店，等着买冰激淋。冰激凌车里面的冰激凌并不是最美味的，但是它带给孩子们的幸福时光是最值得留念的。记得我的小时候，家门口有爆爆米花的小摊，小朋友们拿着米粒排长队，一个一个等着爆米花。这是中国八十年代记忆里最好吃的零食。

My favourite shoes

我最喜欢的鞋子

Acrylic on canvas, 2017

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Tutu has a large collection of shoes: sandals, sneakers, gum boots, crocs, and more. She enjoys picking out a pair of shoes on each outing. "I would like to share this with you, little one. Life is about decision making, maybe it starts from picking out a pair of shoes."

小兔有很多不同的鞋子：凉鞋、运动鞋、水鞋、洞洞鞋……她也非常喜欢自己选择出门要穿的那双鞋。“小兔，其实妈妈想说，人生有很多需要做选择的时候，那么就从一双鞋子开始吧。”



Black swan

黑天鹅

Acrylic on canvas, 2017

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Black swan are beautiful creatures. One afternoon, we went to Centennial Park to feed them so we could see their grace up close. When we go, sometimes we will bring bread to feed the mums and their babies. They come to shore and enjoy our treat, and spend the rest of afternoon in the warm sunlight. Do you still remember your favourite pet in your childhood? A cat, a dog, a goldfish, a horse or...

黑天鹅很美。在一个晴朗的午后，我们去百年公园喂天鹅，那里可以近距离接触他们，有时候可以看到天鹅妈妈和宝宝们。我们去的时候会准备一些面包，黑天鹅会到岸上吃东西，在那里一起度过冬日里温暖的下午。你还记得童年记忆里你最喜欢的动物吗？小猫，小狗，金鱼，一匹小马，还是……



Magnolia

玉兰花

Acrylic on canvas, 2018

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



We planted a magnolia tree when we moved into our new home. It bloomed the next year. I hope Tutu grows up with the magnolia tree under the beautiful Australian sun.

刚搬进新家时，在家门口种下了一棵玉兰花。第二年，开了很多粉色的花。在澳洲的阳光雨露下，妈妈希望小兔和玉兰一起成长。

Baking day

做饼干的日子

Acrylic on canvas, 2018

布面丙烯

Size: 30cm, Diameter

尺寸：30cm, 直径



Baking is our favourite family time. Tutu loves the texture of dough. When the cookies are just freshly out of the oven, I enjoy one with a cup of coffee. This is what I call quality family time. I still remember how I spent time with my family growing up: wrapping dumplings with my mum and dad was my favourite thing.

做饼干是我们最爱的家庭活动之一。小兔喜欢玩面团，我们则喜欢分享刚出炉的饼干，配上一杯咖啡的滋味。回想童年，那时我非常喜欢和大人们一起包饺子。小兔，你要知道用心、手、脑，努力做好一件事，并和家人们一起分享，是一件很美妙的事情。



About ACIAC

The Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture (ACIAC) at Western Sydney University was founded for the purpose of facilitating collaboration and engagement between Australia and China in a culturally smart way.

ACIAC positions itself as a hub and national resource centre for arts and cultural exchange between Australia and China and across the Sinosphere, and for cross-cultural collaborative research in the arts and other cultural fields.

ACIAC promotes exchanges between Western Sydney University and its partner universities overseas in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. Each year, it engages with the local community in Western Sydney and particularly with ethnic Chinese groups, businesses and individuals and launches significant new research programs of

relevance to the Australia-China relationship. Building on the research strengths of Western Sydney University and on existing exchange programs in the University, ACIAC will stay committed to the enhancement of bilateral understanding between members of Australian and Chinese cultures and to the development of deeper ties through an open, intellectual and dynamic engagement.

For more information, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/aciac/about





Please share your story by drawing or writing





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heli. rabbit

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