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Jianling Yue

Jianling Yue is a lecturer and Chinese Minor Advisor in the Department of Communication and Media at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Troy, New York. Yue's teaching and academic pursuits have earned her numerous awards and commendations. She is also an expert in Chinese paper-cutting (or paper-cut) art, which was included on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2009. Recently, Yue conducted a paper-cutting workshop at New York Folklore, the last of our 2019 "paper-themed workshops," as a companion to New York Folklore's spring/summer exhibit of traditional Turkish paper marbling by ebru artist and Rochester resident, Hatice Erbas-Sorkunlu.

Chinese paper-cut has a long history that can be traced to ancient times, long before paper was invented. It was done by carving hollowed patterns on thin materials, such as tree leaves, cloths, or leathers, or engraving patterns on the bricks inside tombs. Chinese paper-cut also has rich cultural and regional backgrounds. It carries many layers of meaning for a variety of purposes and functions, which include being used for house decorations (on windows, walls, or ceilings), for events (birthdays, weddings, ceremonies, or funerals), or for prayers (invoking the rain, warding off misfortune, and so on). It has also



Jianling Yue displays an example of her paper-cutting. All photos courtesy of Jianling Yue.

spread to many parts of the world, with different regions adopting their own cultural styles.

Jianling Yue learned this art during her childhood in her hometown in Shanxi Province, China, a region rich in Chinese paper-cut culture. During her time at a teacher-training school, she further refined her skills and started creating her own designs. Later, Jianling earned a Master's degree in Chinese Linguistics and Pedagogy in Beijing, China, and another Master's degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language in the United States. She began her career as an educator of Chinese language and culture and continued her research on Chinese paper-cut art and traditional Chinese designs.

She also integrated her research on these two (and other types of Chinese culture) into her curriculum to help enhance her students' cultural experience and competence. Over many years, Jianling has been passionately teaching Chinese language and culture while holding many workshops (complete with introduction, demonstration, and hands-on experience) on Chinese paper-cut for various cultural activities and festivals for her college and community.

Yue's academic interests and publications span Chinese linguistics, pedagogy, second language acquisition, Chinese character evolution, grammar instruction, and English-Chinese translation. She has authored or co-authored 13 textbooks.

Yue's lifelong passion for education has been demonstrated by her ongoing contributions to curriculum development, pedagogical innovation, learner autonomy, teacher training, study abroad, immersion summer camp programs, the establishment of international connections, and a wide variety of cultural activities for students, such as the Chinese New Year gala performance and the Conversation Corner and Mandarin Club (CCMC). She has played a key role in initiating and offering continuing support for the Summer Academic Program for Rensselaer International Students (SAPRIS).

Several of Jianling's paper-cuttings are in the New York Folklore Gallery. ▼



Chinese New Year Celebration – Happiness.



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