

## Arte y amistad

Colaboración artística entre los maestros Huo Chunyang y Luis Cantillo

Antes que nada, quiero agradecer a China Foundation for Peace and Development, ZhongyuLidu, China Artists Association y a la Embajada de Colombia.

Es un honor para mí colaborar con el maestro Huo Chungyang de la Academia de Arte de Tianjin precisamente cuando el próximo año se cumplen 40 años del establecimiento de relaciones diplomáticas entre China y Colombia.

Nuestra colaboración tuvo lugar en el estudio del maestro Huo en la Academia de Arte de Tianjin, la idea detrás de nuestra primera pintura “orquídea y cóndor de roca”, era tomar elementos representativos de cada cultura y combinarlos en una obra al estilo tradicional de pintura china. En este caso el maestro Huo pintó una orquídea que en la cultura china simboliza una persona con carácter noble y además en Colombia es la flor nacional. Por mi parte pinté una roca en forma de cóndor. En la cultura china las rocas son un símbolo de una persona firme y virtuosa

The idea behind our first collaboration, the “Orchid and condor rock” painting, was to take elements from each culture and combine them in a single artwork. In this case master Huo painted an orchid that in Chinese culture represent a person with noble character and is the national flower of Colombia. I painted a rock in the shape of a condor bird. As you know a rock in Chinese culture also have the implied meaning of a virtuous person, and the condor for us is our national symbol like the panda bear is for Chinese culture. The condor is unique to the Andes Mountains, they are the largest bird in the Western hemisphere and they tend to live a long life.

We painted two version of this painting, in the first one we use the traditional Chinese ink method and for the second version we experimented using Gum Arabic that gives a printmaking look to the final artwork. This second version we plan to give it as a present to the Colombian Embassy.

Our second collaboration was a landscape painting, which actually sounds a bit difficult to do with four hands but we manage to unite our hands a produce a memorable painting. Beforehand we discussed with master Huo and we agree to paint a landscape that resembles a lake, rich in water that is so essential for our future. In Chinese culture there are many famous lakes like for example West Lake in Hangzhou or Kunming Lake in the Summer Palace in Beijing. These lakes are works of art made over centuries and they represent a balance and harmony between man and nature. On the other hand, in Colombia we have many sacred lagoons, for example “Guatavita” or “Siecha”, the first one is associated with the Legend of El Dorado, a place were pre-Columbian people used to go to make offerings with gold to the gods in order to preserve harmony in the world. Still today these sacred lagoons are very important to local indigenous communities.

In the landscape that we painted you see a circular lake rich in water, with clouds on the distance on the top left, and in the foreground master Huo Chunyang painted pine trees that for Chinese culture represents a person with a noble and virtuous character and I painted “frailejones” a plant as tall as a tree whose name means “a friar, or a monk”, a person who also shares a noble and virtuous spirit. And when this plant blossoms its flower resembles the sunflowers and in Chinese culture the sunflowers are a symbol of hope. So in this painting the pine tree and the frailejón are keeping company together and in harmony with nature.

With this artistic collaboration with master Huo, we wanted to celebrate the rich culture and friendship of our countries. We hope we can continue growing together and learning from each other. Like the sunflowers guided by the sun, we have hope building a better future together.

Luis Cantillo  
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