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托马斯·卡普兰
他把伦勃朗带到中国

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对话者|Amy Luan、Thomas S. Kaplan 编辑|孟孟 摄影|雅静

“我的王国不是我拥有什么，而是我做过什么。”

托马斯·卡普兰博士发起的“伦勃朗和他的时代——美国莱顿收藏馆藏藏品展”正在中国国家博物馆举行，这是荷兰黄金时代画作在中国最大规模的展示。自创立之初起，莱顿收藏便是唯一一家可供出借经典大师画作的“借阅图库”，至今已向欧洲、美国和日本的主流博物馆匿名提供艺术作品借阅支持多达 170 余次。

也正因如此，莱顿收藏一直以来都是艺术领域最鲜为人知的重要收藏系列。直至2017年初该系列艺术品于巴黎卢浮宫博物馆首展，莱顿收藏才第一次作为一个整体概念在公众面前呈现。

莱顿收藏由美国收藏家托马斯·卡普兰博士（Dr. Thomas S.Kaplan）与妻子达芙妮·莉卡纳第·卡普兰（Daphne Recanati Kaplan）于 2003 年创建，拥有250 幅艺术珍品，是目前全球拥有十七世纪荷兰艺术画作数量最多、最重要的私人收藏之一。

莱顿收藏馆藏藏品展是荷兰黄金时代画作在中国有史以来最大规模的展示。其中包含十一幅伦勃朗画作——这也是伦勃朗画作数量最多的私人收藏，以及天才艺术家维米尔首幅在北京展示的作品《坐在维金纳琴旁的少女》。

作为收藏家、艺术赞助人也是《俱乐部》杂志出品人的Amy Luan（栾艺铭）女士在一个夏日的午前与他展开了一场关于信仰、艺术、公益行动等方面的对话。

通过交谈，我们发现，除了对于伦勃朗及17世纪其他荷兰画家作品的收藏以外，保护雪豹是卡普兰极大的兴趣所在，这种兴趣甚至超越了他的收藏和产业。这令我们非常意外。

而这个意外的话题点是由另一位藏家，同时也是虔诚的佛教徒的Amy Luan女士引起的。于是，我们当下决定，放弃有关伦勃朗作品的话题，转而聊一聊托马斯·卡普兰博士有关保护野生动物的见解。

我希望用艺术把当下时代的所有人都连接起来，让文化之间没有人造的障碍。我认为，现在所拥有的所有媒介我们都应当拿来用，把人与人之间的关系、人与环境之间的关系都变得和谐。这是我们留给下一代最好的东西。”



Amy Luan (以下简称A)：让我非常感动的是，你跟我是有相通的地方的。你也是一个愿意“给予”的人。虽然你用你的财富购买了很多伦勃朗的作品，但你并不把它们放在家里，而是进行全球的巡展，让更多的人看到。这一点在你开幕那天的讲话中是最打动我的。我现在所关注的人都是在心灵上愿意给予的人。

托马斯·卡普兰 (以下简称K)：我本身是一个历史学家。著名历史学家Thomas Carlyle曾经说过：“我的王国不是我拥有什么，而是我做过什么。”这句话是在开幕式那天所引用的，也是我那次讲话的主题。

A：这一点我也是有同感的。我是一个佛教徒，我一直在追寻心灵上的沟通。你一直在付出，所以上天给你的也非常丰厚，也就是你的财富。我们都是幸运的人。幸运的人有很多，但是他们之中有的是找不到自己的使命感的。而你一面在获得，一面在给予别人，所以上天一定是爱你的。

K：这是一个特别中国式的理念，但我认为你说得非常对。其实每个人都是需要一些运气来做成一些事的，而我觉得我是一个特别特别幸运的人。从另一个角度来讲，我也是一个对我所做的事情特别有热情的人。有一个古罗马的思想我非常赞同：当你理解一件事情的时候，就应该付诸于行为。

这个思想跟佛教的思想是相通的。佛教中曾讲到：“在追求真理的过程中，人们会犯两个错误，一个是没有坚持下来，一个是没有开始。”对我来说，只要开始了，我就尽全力做到最好。

事实上，我对商业没有那么高的热情，我真正的热情是在保护野生动物上。你看，雪豹！（指自己领带上的雪豹图案）然后，我另一个热情点就是艺术。我希望用艺术把当下时代的所有人都连接起来，让文化之间没有人为的障碍。我认为，现在所拥有的所有媒介我们都应当拿来用，把人与人之间的关系、人与环境之间的关系都变得和谐。这是我们留给下一代最好的东西。

A: 我觉得你刚才讲的，追求真理的时候，一是没有坚持下来，半途而废，二是从来没有开始，这是非常对的。还有你提到的保护野生动物。我是一个素食主义者，我尊重佛陀所讲的“众生平等”，所以我不会去吃动物，也不愿意看到它们流血。持有这种理念的人在当今世上并不是很多，但一定会慢慢多起来。

K: 我愿意分享我未来想在中国做的事情：我坚信，在保护动物这一方面，中国在未来一定会引领全世界的发展。现阶段，这种想法可能不被很多人认可，这好像不是一种传统的想法。但是，不传统的我才喜欢。

A: 你热爱艺术，其实艺术也是一种“众生平等”。因为艺术是没有国界的，是每个人都能去理解和体会的。我经常跟别人说：神在用泥造人的时候，普通人捏了5分钟，而艺术家捏了半个小时。神创造你多花了这么长时间，你应该为社会做贡献，去宣扬真善美。

K: 这很有意思。我和国家博物馆的人聊，看是否可以再做一场展览。这个展览的主题就是呼吁大家来保护野生动物，比如雪豹、老虎等等。雪豹在世界上有12个主要的栖息国，中国是最大的一个，其他11个国家雪豹的总和才相当于中国的数量。所以我关注中国，希望做这个展览。

A: 中国的雪豹主要在哪里？

K: 主要在西部山区。新疆、西藏……一方面，中国的雪豹数量是世界上最多的。另一方面，我认为雪豹是世界上最美的动物之一。如果我们真能坚持做这件事情，雪豹可能就会上升到像熊猫一样的位置，成为中国的一个象征。

在西方，有很多关于我保护野生动物的报道。在那些文章里，他们叫我“猫科动物之王”。

A: 我觉得你就像是一个“雪豹王”一样！

K: 在西方，有很多关于我保护野生动物的报道。在那些文章里，他们叫我“猫科动物之王”。像《福布斯》这样的杂志都这么叫我。但我不想当猫科动物的国王，我想当它们其中的一个王子。

A: 事实上，你也像是护佑猫科动物的神一样。

K: 我们也创办了一个猫科动物的保护组织，现在也是全球最有力的一个保护组织之一。我们跟全球50多个国家的100多个合作伙伴都有建立联系。就像我刚才说的：不开始、不坚持，这是两个最大的错误。但这两个错误我们都没有犯。

A: 我觉得在中国也应该成立这样一个保护雪豹的协会，我也愿意加入。另外，我想，在中国有关你的文章里，就应该把你的名字写作“雪豹王子”，因为你有这种精神。

K: 我们坚信，在中国，雪豹和其他大型猫科动物的保护一定大有前景。因为我听说中国马上就要在东北成立第一个野生老虎自然保护区了，这非常了不起。在未来，中国一定会成为世界保护野生动物的主导力量。虽然现在人们提到“中国”和“野生动物保护”，似乎感觉没有太多联系，但变化就是这么快。

在一个月之前，如果有人说中国会主导全球气候变化的对策，也没有人会相信。但现在中国就真的变成了气候变化议题的全球领导者。中国在世界上的地位越来越重要。这并不是说中国要获取世界的权力，而是世界开始慢慢把自己交给中国。

世界上分布最广的两种野生动物，一种是大象，另一种是老虎，这两种在中国都有。如果我们真的能够把这两种动物保护好的话，对中国而言也是很有益的，因为他们很受欢迎。中国在世界上有非常大的号召力，就像之前的《巴黎协定》那样，中国可以把如此多的国家都团结起来，这正是中国软实力的体现。这比建造20艘航空母舰要来得更真实。

我非常期待中国能够重视这一方面的问题。动物制品的走私和非法交易其实没有想象中那么高的利益，但如果我们把这些杜绝了，所带来的回报，包括财物上的回报，是不计其数的。我并不是试图通过说教来教育中国人，因为美国在环境问题上根本没有资格来教育中国人。

美国当年在发展的时候，也是把环境污染得一塌糊涂。当时由于没有前瞻性，美国的一些物种也灭绝了。曾经有一种鸟叫做“候鸽”，它们成群飞行时遮天蔽日，后来我们不停地打猎，最后它们一只都没有了。还有美国西部的象征“北美野牛”，之前数量多得不得了，当它们在草原上的时候，我们都看不到绿草，但现在也濒临灭绝了。如果把美国发展的同时期拿来与中国对比的话，中国人的思想比我们是超前太多的。

结语

随着中国的发展，尤其是在文化领域中逐渐进入到全球语境中。从商业的全球化到文化的融合，卡普兰博士表示：“事实上，我对商业没有那么高的热情，我希望用艺术把当下时代的所有人都连接起来，让文化之间没有人为的障碍。我认为，现在所拥有的所有媒介我们都应当拿来用，把人与人之间的关系、人与环境之间的关系都变得和谐。

这是我们留给下一代最好的东西”。而在AMY看来，这一切都处于动态的进行中，并且预示着更加美好的未来：“如果一个种子，或者是一个启迪开始了，它的成果就会非常巨大。你这次来到中国，发现中国跟想象中的差别很大。可能有很多美国人没有来过中国，他们还不能真切体会到，中国的精英，中国的知识分子、艺术家、企业家都正在觉醒。我们现在有一些火种，它们在将来会把整个天空都照亮。



“Thomas Kaplan: He Brought Rembrandt to China”

“Not what I have, but what I do is my kingdom”

Dr. Thomas Kaplan recently launched “Rembrandt and His Time: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection” at the National Museum of China. This represents the largest show of paintings from the Dutch Golden Age ever exhibited in China. Since its inception, The Leiden Collection has grown into the sole private “Lending Library” in the Old Masters, constantly loaning its masterpieces to major museums in Europe, the US, and Japan. To date, the Collection has extended over 170 anonymous loans to various institutions.

This is precisely the reason why The Leiden Collection, as significant as it is, remained largely unknown in the past. Its first presentation to the public took place earlier this year when it debuted at the Louvre.

The Leiden Collection was established in 2003 by two American collectors, Dr. Thomas Kaplan and his wife, Daphne Recanati Kaplan. It comprises 250 art treasures and stands as the most important private collection of 17th century Dutch paintings in the world.

The present show at the National Museum of China represents the most significant exhibition of paintings from the Dutch Golden Age in the history of China. It includes 11 works by Rembrandt – the largest privately owned collection of works by the Dutch master. *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal* by the genius Vermeer can also be seen in Beijing for the first time.

One summer morning, collector, philanthropist, and producer of CLUB magazine, Ms. Amy Luan, had a fascinating conversation with Dr. Kaplan about religion, art, and charitable activities.

During their exchange, Amy Luan discovered that, apart from his enthusiasm for Rembrandt and the Dutch Golden Age, Dr. Kaplan was also deeply committed to the protection of snow leopards. Much to her surprise, his passion for snow leopards actually surpassed that for his art collection and business.

This unexpected topic resonated with Amy Luan, who is a collector but also a devout Buddhist. As a result, the conversation quickly switched from Rembrandt to wildlife conservation.

“I want to connect people in the present era with art, so that there are no man-made barriers between cultures. I believe that all types of media available today should be used to make relationships between people, as well as relationships between mankind and the environment, harmonious. This is the most important legacy that we can leave for the next generation.”

Amy Luan (hereafter referred to as A): I was very moved by the fact that you and I have something in common. You are also willing to give. Although you acquired a very significant number of Rembrandt's works with your wealth, you do not keep them at home. Instead, you send these paintings on global tours so that more people can enjoy them. This is what impressed me the most in your speech today at the opening. The people I am most interested in are those who are willing to give their hearts.

Thomas Kaplan (hereafter referred to as K): I am myself a historian. Thomas Carlyle, a famous historian, put it best: "not what I have, but what I do is my kingdom." I quoted this sentence at the opening ceremony at the National Museum of China; it was actually the title of my speech.

A: I totally agree. As a Buddhist, I have been searching for spiritual communication. You kept on giving, and God rewarded you with wealth. We are both fortunate. There are many fortunate people in the world, but some of them struggle to find their sense of mission. While you are receiving, you are also giving to others. God must love you.

K: This kind of concept is very Chinese, but I think you are quite right. The fact is, everyone needs some luck to achieve anything, and I feel that I am a particularly lucky person. On the other hand, I am also very passionate about what I do. There is an ancient Greco-Roman tradition, with which I agree, that says that one must translate and apply one's knowledge into action.

These kinds of thinking have much in common with Buddhism. In Buddhism, the adage goes: "in pursuit of truth, people often make two mistakes; one is not going all the way, and the other is not starting." For me, once I have started something, I always go "all in".

In fact, I am not so keen about business. My real passion is the protection of wild animals. You see, snow leopards [pointing to the pattern on his tie]! My other passion, obviously, is art. I want to connect people in the present era with art, so that there are no man-made barriers between cultures. I believe that all types of media available today should be used to make relationships between people, as well as relationships between mankind and the environment, harmonious. This is the most important legacy that we can leave for the next generation.

A: I could not agree more with what you said about the mistakes one makes in pursuit of truth. Speaking about wildlife preservation, I happen to be a vegetarian and I respect Buddha's notion of "equality for all creatures". As such, I will not eat animals, nor would I want to see them bleed. Few people hold this kind of idea in the world today, but I believe there will be more.

K: Let me share with you what I would like to do in China in the future. I firmly believe that in the area of wildlife conservation, China soon will become a world leader. At the moment, many people may not be able to grasp this idea – it seems somewhat unconventional. But I happen to like things that are unconventional.

A: You have a passion for art. There is also a sense of “equality for all creatures” in the world of art. Because art does not know borders, everyone can experience it. I often say that when God created man from dust, he spent 5 minutes to create an ordinary man, and half an hour to create an artist. God spent so much time creating each and every one of us – we should contribute to society, promote truth, good, and beauty.

K: That’s very interesting. I will soon be having a conversation with my friends at the National Museum of China to see if there could perhaps be another exhibition on the important theme of wildlife conservation, focusing on species such as snow leopards, tigers, and others. As you may know, snow leopards have 12 major habitats in the world. China is the largest, potentially comprising as many such animals as the other 11 countries combined. I am therefore extremely interested in mobilizing China’s influence and would love to see this exhibition materialize.

A: Where are the majority of snow leopards in China?

K: Most of them are in the western mountains, in places like Xinjiang or Tibet. As I mentioned, the number of snow leopards in China happens to be the largest in the world. I also believe that they truly are one of the most beautiful animals in the world. If we succeed in this effort, snow leopards may well rise to the same status as pandas in China and become a symbol for the country.

“In the West, the press extensively covers our work in animal conservation. Some reports have referred to me as “the king of cats”.”

A: You are the “king of leopards”!

K: In the West, the press extensively covers our work in animal conservation. Some reports have referred to me as “the king of cats”. Even Forbes calls me that. But I do not want to be the king of cats; I just want to be one of their princes!

A: In reality, you are like a god who protects the felids.

K: In 2006 my wife and I founded a wildcats conservation organization called Panthera, which is now one of the world’s most influential conservation groups. We have partnered with over 100 organizations in more than 50 countries worldwide. As I mentioned earlier: not starting, or not persevering, these are the two biggest mistakes. We didn’t make them.

A: We really should establish a similar conservation initiative in China for snow leopards and you should consider joining it. Chinese press articles about you should start calling you “the prince of snow leopards” – you certainly have the spirit!

K: We firmly believe that in China, the future is very promising for the protection of snow leopards and other large felines. I understand that China is about to establish the first wild tigers nature reserve in the northeast, which is wonderful news. Soon, the

country will become the world's leading force in the protection of wild animals. At the moment, people don't see much connection between the words "China" and "wildlife conservation". But that is about to change.

A month ago, if someone had claimed that China would become a leading force in combatting global climate change, no one would have believed it. Yet today the country is clearly an international leader in climate change negotiations. China's position in the world is becoming ever more important. This is not to say that China wants power in the world, rather that the world has begun to slowly give itself to China.

The two animals most subject to illegal trade in the world – the elephant and the tiger – are being trafficked in China. If they could be protected, China would truly benefit. These animals are so popular and China's influence is so great. Take the "Paris Agreement" for example, where China is now leading so many countries in an impressive display of "soft power". This mission can project more power than building 20 new aircraft carriers.

I very much look forward to China's role in this issue. Smuggling and illegal trafficking of animal products is not as profitable as one might think. If we put an end to it, however, the rewards in terms of goodwill and influence would be tremendous.

I am not trying to educate the Chinese people by preaching. As their country was developing, Americans also made a mess of the environment – the United States is therefore hardly qualified to educate China on that issue. At that time, some species completely disappeared because of a lack of foresight. For instance, there used to be a type of bird called the passenger pigeon. Flocks of them in the sky could almost block the sunlight. We kept hunting them, until there was none left. As for the symbol of the Western United States, namely the "American Bison", which once roamed the grasslands of North America in massive herds, it nearly became extinct as well. If we were to compare the United States' development trajectory with China's, one would conclude that the Chinese people's thinking could end up being far ahead of ours.

Epilogue

China's development, especially in the field of culture, has gradually inserted the country into a global context. With regards to business globalization and cultural integration, Dr. Kaplan said: "In fact, I am not so keen about business. I want to connect people in the present era with art, so that there are no man-made barriers between cultures. I believe that all types of media available today should be used to make relationships between people, as well as relationships between mankind and the environment, harmonious. This is the most important legacy that we can leave for the next generation." And for Amy, all of these initiatives constitute major steps forward, signaling a better future ahead: "If a seed is planted or a phase of enlightenment begins, the results will be considerable". Upon coming to China, one finds the country to be quite different from what one thought. Many Americans have never visited China and they probably do not fully realize that Chinese elites, intellectuals, artists, and entrepreneurs are going through an awakening. What we now experience is a kindling, which will soon illuminate the entire sky.