

Two years ago, Public Art Saint Paul and the US-China Peoples Friendship Association invited me and my wife to attend the International Stone Carving Symposium in St Paul. That was a life long memory. 60 days of full devotion led to the creation of this sculpture.

It is named "Meditation". This is what I wanted to express with this art piece: this is a rich and peaceful land, and it intrigues people's best wishes and dreams for the future. I feel fortunate being an artist, because there are no national boundaries with the language of art. Almost everyone can understand this sculpture. Many American friends expressed their fondness for this sculpture. I am extremely delighted that I can share my work with all of you, since it is a witness of my friendship and connection to Saint Paul and America, and it is a witness of the friendship among all artists of the world.

Unfortunately not long ago vandalism to the sculpture happened. I am deeply saddened. This sculpture is as much devotion from Christine and Public Art Saint Paul as from myself. But I am so glad to know the community is standing against vandalism and is organizing this love-filled ceremony to restore the sculpture.

I want to thank the community for their enthusiasm, love and selfless devotion. Members of US-China Peoples Friendship Association--Mary, Linda, Jenny Hsiao, Weiming Lu, and others have always offered me support and help. I want to say "Thank you" to everyone for coming today. I am deeply moved. I did not expect such a thoughtful and soul touching ceremony.

I will forgive those who damaged this sculpture. As you gather in Saint Paul, the Olympic Games are now being hosted in China, and people of all races are gathering in Beijing. People are happily celebrating.

I am working on a monument for Martin Luther King. King is a hero, and I am deeply touched by his spirit. He had taught us "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

We are all brothers and sisters..... and we sing the same song about love. Love is so powerful!

Yixin Lei

2008.8.15
Changsha, China

李宁：

获悉你今天将参加圣保罗公共艺术组织的清理石雕“遐想”仪式，我的心情非常激动，我希望借这个机会，通过你向参加今天活动的来宾表达我的敬意。

两年前，我和夫人受圣保罗公共艺术委员会和美中友好协会明州分会邀请来到圣保罗，参加国际石雕研究会，圣保罗的一切都给我们留下终身难忘的美好印象，我用我的全身心在60天时间内创作了这件石雕作品，取名为“遐想”，我想表达的是：这是一块祥和安宁的土地，它特别让人对现实和未来充满美好憧憬和期望。

我非常庆幸，艺术的语言是没有国界，几乎每一个人都能读懂这件作品。许多美国人向我表达了对这件作品的喜爱。我很高兴我的艺术作品能让大家分享，这件作品见证了我和圣保罗的情感和友谊、也见证了世界各国艺术家与美国的友谊。

但是，很遗憾，不久前，还是有人做出了这种破坏艺术的事情，我的确很难过，这件作品不仅倾注了我大量的心血，也倾注了克林斯玳和她的委员会的大量的心血。不过，我很高兴的知道，圣保罗公共艺术委员会、很多组织和社会团体对此非常重视，他们不仅表示反对以这种方式破坏艺术，而且还组织了今天这个伟大的充满爱的活动。

我在这里要特别感谢克林斯玳女士，是她的热情、爱心和无私奉献为这个城市更美丽，更有生机，做了大量的工作。我还想感谢美中友好协会的玛瑞、琳达、肖太太、卢伟民先生，是他们始终支持和帮助我。我要感谢今天来参加活动的所有人，谢谢你们。我真的没有想到，你们会为这事情举行这么隆重的仪式。

我会宽恕那些破坏者，你们知道，中国北京正在举办奥运会，全世界不同国家不同肤色的人汇集中国，大家在一起象过节一样欢乐。我正在为美国民权领袖马丁·路德·金塑像。马丁·路德·金是一位了不起的伟人，我被他的精神感染，他告诉我们：“仇恨解决不了问题，天下所有的人之间都要充满爱，爱能溶化仇恨。愿天下所有的人都情同手足…….同唱一首爱的歌”

爱的力量真是太伟大！

谢谢大家！

也谢谢李宁！

雷宜铤

2008.8.15

中国长沙