

### Visual Arts

Specializes in Chinese brush painting and Chinese papercutting. Also does paintings in acrylic and oils, in which she combines Chinese and American styles and media



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### Manli's Biography and Artistic Philosophy / Style

Manli Luo was born in Kunming, China, a city known for its flowers and famous throughout the nation for its mild weather. As a child, Manli would often walk the fields and forests near her hometown, immersing herself in the beauty of the natural world surrounding Kunming. Here she came to view nature as a model of peaceful benevolence.

This idea would soon become a firm anchor in a world spinning out of control around her, a world where the promises and demands of grand social programs were simply leading to many levels of isolation.

Manli's award-winning paintings convey a sense of honesty, directness, and self-determination that can only come with having lived through times when those qualities were often absent from her world.

Respect and admiration for the traditional culture and classical art styles of China are evident in her work. Also apparent, however, are her impressions of the massive changes under which these traditions now bend and strain. As the great philosophies of East and West attempt to come to terms with each other, it is her desire to portray this in art.

Manli attended Si Chuan Art Institute in ChongQing, a school famous for the quality of its alumni. It covers three Chinese states. She graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor's Degree in Design and Fine Arts. Later, she also earned a Certificate of Interior Design at Tong Ji University in Shanghai. She went on to teach art and design at the Shanghai Art & Crafts College. Here in New Britain, Manli has taught at CCSU's Chinese Culture Center, and at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Now, with over twenty years experience in teaching, Manli brings to America a desire to teach us to set aside the mechanics of art and, instead, to concentrate primarily upon the internal conditions of heart and mind that have been the basis for the greatest works of Chinese art throughout history.

Manli has also written and published three books, *Patterns of Architecture Design*, *Chinese Patterns of Furniture*, and *Chinese Patterns of Dragon and Phoenix*, as well as many articles about Chinese Art Culture and Design in Shanghai. She has won several awards at New Britain Art League exhibitions, the Hartford Capital College CRT Annual Art Exhibition, and the Plainville Art League Annual Exhibition; and she has exhibited her work at the Plainville and Southington Libraries.

Manli will accept commissions of new works – prices on request. She teaches Chinese brush painting classes at the Plainville Senior Center, the New Britain Art League, and in West Hartford; and she has given a workshop at the NBMAA. In addition, Manli teaches Chinese language at CCSU's Chinese Cultural Center and for Plainville adults; she also teaches children at the CCSU Chinese Cultural Center.