

April 1, 2019  
High Museum of Art  
Exhibitions Department  
1280 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30309

**Dear Exhibition Review Committee:**

My name is BiLan Liao, an artist and author of the *Diary of the Dragon's Daughter*. I was born and raised in China. While still in China, in 1999 I was granted U.S. permanent residency as an "Alien of Extraordinary Abilities," and my America Dream came to true when I was 45. Not knowing how to speak English, I started like a child to learning a new language. In nine years, I earned two master's degrees in art (MFA and MA), studied art in Italy, and from a dishwasher rose a college professor in Kentucky, where I built the BiLan Liao Gallery. I painted my journey living in China and writing my book *Diary of the Dragon's Daughter*.

I explore the relationships between my personal story, Chinese history, and fine art. My story has been compared to Anne Frank, and people are surprised to learn that millions more people died under Mao Zedong. It is not unusual for people to view my paintings and be moved to tears as they relate to the hardship and suffering that we endure as dreamer, immigrant, minority, and women. My artwork encourages people to share their family's story about coming to America. My artwork is truthful, and inspiring, and my story is about the human spirit.

Since 2006 I have been creating the series of paintings called *Diary of the Dragon's Daughter: Painting as a Window into Chinese History* that capture the crucial moments and the emotions of the most outstanding events in my struggle for freedom. My work takes the viewers/reader back through an account of the New China period and Cultural Revolution telling the stories of survival of eight courageous women in my family. My paintings include stories about my mother, my father, my aunt, my grandmother, my great grandmother, my daughter, my two sisters and myself. We endured many hardships and experienced great humiliations, not only because of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, but also due to the demands placed on Chinese women by a male dominated Chinese traditional culture and society. My concept and inspiration for painting this series and writing my book came from both inside of me and from the many people around me who kept encouraging me to never give up my dream. It is also my wish to encourage viewers be true to their own journeys and to never give up their dreams.

I have been featured in these news programs: Morning Blend (ABC), WSIU (PBS), National Public Radio, Paducah Channel 6 and 2, Atlanta Chinese News, Women of Wealth magazine, PaducahSun newspaper, Paducah Life magazine. I have shown many of my paintings in the book in museums and galleries, and I have lectured nationally and internationally.

My artwork and narratives will great benefit to the High Museum and the Atlanta community through this exhibition, as my work has benefitted to many communities in Kentucky and George.

### **Exhibition Wall Space and Opening Reception:**

About 192 feet of wall space is ample to exhibit all in my series, *Diary of the Dragon's Daughter: Painting as a Window into Chinese History* that include over 26 large size oil paintings (about 142 feet of wall space), 18 small acrylic paintings on the canvas and collage, and 4 sculptures (about 50 of wall space). I will make myself available at any time for the High exhibition, and I will be glad to assist in hanging the exhibition since I live in Atlanta.

During the opening reception I will be happy to give an artist's talk, presentation or lecture. Also, I could be available for a book signing of, "Diary of the Dragon's Daughter." I would be willing to reduce the price by 30% for the open reception, and for the High Museum book store.

Further, the esteemed composer Juan R. Ramírez of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra has created original music inspired by my paintings. Since 2017, Juan and I have worked together for a community-service educational program of art, culture and Chinese history, such as I presented with my painting's stories at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra community Concert for the 2018 "Masquerade Gala" 2nd Annual Celebration of Chamber Members, Southwest Gwinnett of Commerce. And Juan is planning an Atlanta Symphony Orchestra community Concert with my presentation for next year. Also, arrangements have been made so that Juan's music may accompany the artwork in an exhibition opening reception of my artwork adding to the experience of viewing the paintings.

Following the proposal is the 10 images list, and my CV.

Please view the 10 large images at my webpage: [http://bilanliao.com/Liao\\_10\\_images.html](http://bilanliao.com/Liao_10_images.html)  
Visit [www.bilanliao.com](http://www.bilanliao.com) for more information and my artwork

A copy of my book and my proposal have been mailed to the exhibition department by USPA.

Thank you for considering my proposal at the High Museum of Art's exhibition program  
I am looking forward to hearing from you,

BiLan  
BiLan Liao. MFA. MA  
Artist / Author / Educator  
Associate Professor (Retired 2016)  
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10 Images List



1

*My Journey*, 72 x 84 inches,  
oil on canvas, 2014



2

*The Window* (Abstraction) 14 x 11 inches,  
acrylic on canvas, 2008



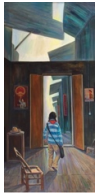
3

*Father's Hopelessness* (triptych, painting 2),  
48 x 24 inches each, oil and sand on canvas, 2007



4

*The Voices of Freedom*  
48 x 24 inches, oil on canvas, 2014



5

*Sister Tao Goes to Heaven*,  
48 x 24 inches, oil on canvas, 2008



6

*Mother's Burden*, 30 x 24 inches,  
oil on canvas, 2009



7

*Forced Marriage (Aunt)*,  
40 x 30 inches, oil on canvas, 2013



8

*One Child Policy*,  
36 x 24 inches, oil on canvas, 2012



9

*Unforgettable*, 48 x 24 inches,  
oil on canvas, 2017



10

*Freedom*, 48 x 24 inches,  
oil on canvas, 2017

**BLAN LIAO CV**

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**EDUCATION**

Master of Fine Arts, Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI (KCAD)	2008
Graduate Courses, Studio Art Centers International, Florence, Italy	2007
Master of Arts, University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN (U of I)	2006
Graduate Level Certificate in Photography Research, Chinese People’s University, China	1993
Certificate in Photography, Photography Correspondence College, China	1987
Bachelor of Graphic Design, Hunan Province Art and Craft College, China	1986

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**TEACHING APPOINTMENTS & PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Associate Professor, Paducah School of Art and Design, WKCTC (Retired in 2016)	2008 – 2016
Adjunct Instructor and Graduate Teaching Assistant, KCAD	2007 – 2008
Adjunct Instructor, Herron School of Art and Design, Indianapolis, IN (Herron)	2001 – 2006
Director, Painting and Photography Department in Longgang, China	1995 – 1999
Executive Editor, Longgang Newspaper, Longgang, China	1993 – 1995

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**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Chairwoman, Art Committee of World Chamber Commerce, Atlanta, GA	2017 – Present
Educational Consultant, Guanmei International School, Dongguang, China	2010 – Present
Member, International Art Education Association (InAEA)	2013 – Present
Member, Foundations in Art: Theory & Education	2007 – Present
Member, Portrait Society of America	2009 – 2013
Member, College Art Association	2007 – 2013

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**AWARDS / HONORS / GRANTS**

<i>Global International Alliance Advocates for National Community Service</i> , Atlanta, GA	2018
Kentucky Foundation for Women, <i>2016 Artist Enrichment Grant</i>	2016
<i>2016 Duchess of Paducah</i> , KY	2016
WKCTC, <i>Teacher of the Year Division Winner</i>	2015
Paducah City awarded land in the artists’ district to build the <i>BiLan Liao Gallery</i>	2010
Honorary Professor, Hunan Arts and Crafts Vocational College, China	2009
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</i> , Juried exhibition, Clemens Fine Art Center, Paducah, KY	2008
<i>Blue Heron Academy Award</i> , Juried Arts Exhibition, Grand Rapids Art Museum, MI	2007
<i>Merit Scholarship Recipient</i> , KCAD	2006
<i>Provost Award for Outstanding Graduate Work</i> , U of I	2005 – 2006
Herron’s <i>2003 Outstanding Associate Faculty Award</i>	2003
<i>Who’s Who in China in Scientific Chinese - Talent Bank of Chinese Experts</i>	1999

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**PUBLICATIONS / BIBLIOGRAPHY**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition <i>Diary of the Dragon's Daughter</i> , GFIP, LLC	2019
<i>Diary of the Dragon's Daughter</i> , GFIP, LLC	2016
Studio Visit – vol. 29. p. 102	2015
Madrid Journal of Contemporary Literature, winter 2014 Issue, pp. 84 – 95	2014
International Contemporary Artists, p. 147	2012
<i>Lion Dance in Long Gang District-Selections of Excellent Photography Works</i> , China	1999
<i>Third International Lion-Dance Competition</i> , Government of Longgang, China	1999
<i>Selections of Photography and Painting by BiLan Liao</i> , Sichuan Publishing House, China	1998

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**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

BiLan Liao Gallery, Atlanta, GA	2017 – Present
BiLan Liao Gallery, Paducah, KY	2012 – 2016
Maiden Valley Cinema Gallery, Paducah, KY	2014
Paducah City Hall, Paducah, KY	2013
Clemens Fine Art Center, Paducah, KY	2011
Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY	2009
Clemens Fine Art Center, Paducah, KY	2009
Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI	2008
First United Methodist Church Gallery, Grand Rapids, MI	2007
University of Indianapolis, Christel Dehaan Fine Arts Center, Indianapolis, IN	2006
Indiana University, East Whitewater Galley, Richmond, IN	2005
Indiana University Purdue University, Columbus North Wing Gallery, Columbus, IN	2005
Indianapolis Arts garden, Indianapolis, IN	2005
First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church Gallery, Indianapolis, IN	2003
Shenzhen Fine Art Museum, Shenzhen, China	1995

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**JURIED EXHIBITIONS**

Fine Arts Center of Hot Spring, Hot Spring, AR	2012
Cornerstone Art and Events Gallery, Frankfort, KY	2011
Associated Artists of Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem, NC	2011
Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort, KY	2011
Mad Art Gallery, St. Louis, MO	2011
Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL	2008
Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI	2007
Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI	2007
Kendall College of Art and Design Gallery, Grand Rapids, MI	2007
Indiana University Kokomo Gallery, Kokomo, IN	2005
Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis, IN	2005
Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN	2005
Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, IN	2004
Bona Thompson Memorial Center, Indianapolis, IN	2003
Swope Art Museum, Terre Haute, IN	2003
Wells Memorial Center, Lafayette, IN	2000
GuanShanYue Museum, Shenzhen, China	1996, 1997, 1998

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**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

Hunan Arts and Crafts Vocational College, China	2017
<i>Inspiration</i> , Foundation in Art, Theory and Education, Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL	2016
<i>National Painting and Drawing Invitational figurative</i> , Clemens Fine Art Center, KY	2014
Yeiser Fine Art Center, Paducah, KY	2013
Lexington Convention Center, Lexington, KY	2011
Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, KY	2010
Gallery 109 & Fairbanks Studio, Murray, KY	2010
Co-op Gallery in Lower Town, Paducah, KY	2009
Annual Faculty Show, Paducah School of Art & Design Gallery, Paducah, KY	2008 – 2016
Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI	2008
Annual Faculty Show, Indianapolis Art Center Gallery, Indianapolis, IN	2005
Herron 100 Years, 100 Artists, 100 Bucks, Indianapolis, IN	2003
Associate Faculty Exhibition, Herron School of Art and Design Gallery, Indianapolis, IN	2002
Shenzhen Museum, Shenzhen, China & Hong Kong Exhibition Center, Hong Kong	1997

**INTERVIEWS**

Morning Blend (ABC), <http://www.ktnv.com/morningblend/diary-of-the-dragons-daughter-2-22-19>  
 Atlanta Channel 57, air on December 25, 2018  
 Women of Wealth magazine, pp. 40 – 41, April section, 2018  
 PaducahSun, front p., August 26, 2017  
 Paducah Chanel 6, <http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/story/31272397/from-canvas-to-book-bilan-liaos-story>  
 PBS, <https://www.pbs.org/video/wsiu-expressions-bilan-liao/>, 2015  
 National Public Radio – WKMS, November 15, 2013  
*Artist Looks at History Through ‘Broken Window,’* PaducahSun, p. 1C, Current section, Thursday, November 14, 2013  
 Article by Laurel Black *Faculty show displays lighter side,* PaducahSun, p. 3A, Local section, Sunday, August 26, 2012  
 Article, *Strokes of Culture – An ancient art signifies the importance of culture,* PaducahSun newspaper, p. 2, Life section, Sunday, March 12, 2012  
 Article, *Lower Town Hosts WKCTC’s Chinese New Year at BiLan Liao Gallery,* PaducahSun newspaper, p. 2A, Local section, Sunday, January 22, 2012  
 Paducah Chanel 6, *Chinese New Year at BiLan Liao Gallery,* 2012  
*Gallery exhibits the story of BiLan Liao in Art,* PaducahSun, p. 2A, Local section, Sunday, August 21, 2011  
 Article by Jessica Perkins, *Chinese Paintings Not for Sale,* Paducah Life Magazine, April 2011  
 Article by Adam Shull, PaducahSun, p. 12, Entertainment section, Saturday, April 17, 2010  
 Article by Eddie Grant, *BiLan Life in China,* Paducah iSurfPaducah magazine, p. 5C; Entertainment, Wednesday, January 13, 2010  
 Paducah Channel 2, Interviewed by Craig Berry, aired on August 28, 2009.  
 Paducah Channel 2, Interviewed by Tammy Thompson, aired in March 2009  
 Comcast Channel 28, Filmed by Grand Rapids Community College TV Channel HETA, BiLan’s presentation on fresco Painting, aired on *Comcast Channel 28, Special Programming,* MI, 2008

**PRESENTATIONS & BOOK – SIGNING**

Summerour Middle School, Norcross, GA	2019
Masquerade Gala, 2nd annual celebration of Chamber, Southwest Gwinnett of Commerce, GA	2018
Honoring Champions of Community Service & Humanitarian Celebration, Atlanta, GA	2018
Cherokee Arts Center Theatre, Canton, GA	2018
Canton Theatre, Canton, GA	2017
Xian Normal University, Xian, China	2016
Kentucky of the American Association for Women Conference, Lexington, KY	2016
West Kentucky Community & Technical College, Library, Paducah, KY	2016
Shawnee Community College, Ullin, IL	2016
Paducah Carson Center, Paducah, KY	2016
Foundation in Art: Theory and Education National conference, Indianapolis, IN,	2015
Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO	2015
34th World Congress, Melbourne, Australia	2014
Murray State University, Murray, KY	2013
Paducah McCracken County Public Library, Paducah, KY	2011
Honored to speak at the Celebration of the Hunan Arts and Crafts Vocational College	2010

**COLLECTIONS/DONATIONS**

Paducah Tennis Association Fundraising, Paducah, KY	2017
WKCTC Scholarship Annual Fundraising, Paducah KY (donated artwork each year)	2009 – 2016
University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN	2006