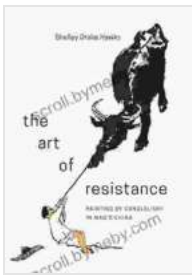


# Painting by Candlelight in Mao China: Uncovering the Hidden Masterpieces

Stepping into the tumultuous years of Mao China, one would hardly imagine the existence of a vibrant art scene thriving in secret. Yet, amidst the chaos and suppression, a group of courageous artists defied the odds, creating extraordinary works of art under the cover of darkness. "Painting by Candlelight in Mao China," an Art History Publication Initiative book, unravels this captivating story, shedding light on the resilience of the human spirit and the transformative power of art.



## The Art of Resistance: Painting by Candlelight in Mao's China (Art History Publication Initiative Books)

by Nancy Rooks

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 34934 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 299 pages



## The Dark Days of the Cultural Revolution

From 1966 to 1976, China endured the Cultural Revolution, a period marked by political turmoil, social upheaval, and widespread destruction. The arts were not spared from this onslaught. Traditional Chinese culture

and art forms were denounced as "feudalistic" and "bourgeois," leading to the suppression and persecution of artists.

In the face of such adversity, a remarkable group of artists emerged. Working in secret, often under the cover of night, they created a hidden trove of artworks that defied the official narrative and expressed their hopes, fears, and aspirations.

### **The Rise of Secret Paintings**

These clandestine artists adopted innovative techniques to avoid detection. They utilized unconventional materials such as rice paper, silk, and even old newspapers. They painted by candlelight, the flickering flames casting an ethereal glow upon their creations. These secret paintings became a symbol of resistance and a testament to the enduring power of artistic expression.



## **Rediscovering the Hidden Masterpieces**

After the end of the Cultural Revolution, these secret paintings gradually came to light. Scholars and art historians began to piece together the fragmented history of this hidden art movement. One of the key researchers in this field is Professor Shelley Bennet, the author of "Painting by Candlelight in Mao China." Her groundbreaking work has played a pivotal role in bringing these masterpieces to the attention of the world.

## **Art History Publication Initiative**

The Art History Publication Initiative (AHPI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the study and appreciation of art history. AHPI has

published numerous books on diverse topics, including "Painting by Candlelight in Mao China." By making these publications accessible to a wider audience, AHPI aims to foster a deeper understanding of art's role in society and inspire future generations.

## **Themes Explored in the Book**

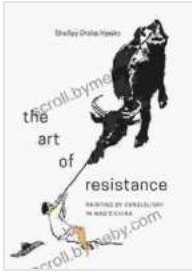
"Painting by Candlelight in Mao China" delves into various themes that make this period of Chinese art so fascinating:

- **The Resilience of the Human Spirit:** The artists' ability to create under such oppressive conditions demonstrates the indomitable nature of human creativity.
- **The Power of Art:** Art became a tool of resistance, a means to express forbidden emotions, and a beacon of hope in a time of darkness.
- **The Importance of Hidden Histories:** The secret paintings shed light on a previously unknown chapter of Chinese art, expanding our understanding of the country's cultural heritage.

"Painting by Candlelight in Mao China" is a groundbreaking work that illuminates a hidden chapter of Chinese history. It is a testament to the power of art to transcend adversity, to inspire hope, and to reveal the indomitable spirit that resides within us all. Whether you are an art enthusiast, a historian, or simply someone intrigued by the resilience of the human spirit, this book is a must-read.

By shedding light on these hidden masterpieces, "Painting by Candlelight in Mao China" not only enriches our understanding of art history but also

invites us to reflect on the importance of preserving and celebrating the diverse voices that shape our world. As Professor Bennet aptly states, "These paintings are a reminder of the indomitable spirit of the human soul and the transformative power of art."



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