## "From Jamaica to China" Jamaican Special Envoy to China Qiu Weiji att ended the art exhibition

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Recently, a special art consultant of Shanghai Shangshang International Art Museum, a new international artist named Peter Wayne Lewis, born in Jamaica, opened at the Red Gate Gallery in Beijing. When the viewer first sees the exhibition, he will be attracted by the color and the visual symphony composed of dots, lines and faces. The combination of yellow, red, black, white and blue has a strong visual impact. The changes, unity, contrast and harmony of points, lines and faces in different combinations are important factors that make his picture impressive. All the clever cooperation makes each piece have a unique sense of music. With the long and cheerful jazz on the scene, the infinite life rhythm is interpreted in a limited space, like a comet that is intertwined in the vast universe. The big bang is no different. "From Jamaica to China" Jamaican Special Envoy to China Qiu Weiji Attend Art Exhibition\_People's Daily Europe Net-People's Daily Overseas Editio...



Photo of the opening ceremony (photo copyright belongs to Red Gate Gallery)

(From right to left, Jamaican Special Envoy to China, Qiu Weiji, artist Peter Wayne Lewis)

#### 1. The influence of German abstract expressionism

Lewis's paintings have great similarities with the works of the German expressionist group, the Blue Knights, especially the works of Vassily Kandinsky and Franz Marc. Founded in Munich, Germany in 1911. Kandinsky and Mark's work were influenced by Max Planck's quantum physics, Einstein's theory of relativity, and Bohr's interpretation of atomic structures. Since the art of Kandinsky and Mark was founded from science, Lewis's abstract expressionism also emerged from the metaphysical exploration and became the creation of painting. Lewis was also influenced by MIT physicist Alan Guth, especially a word from Gus, which made Lewis pay more attention to people, science and the universe. According to the theory of expansion, this creates the material of the universe." Lewis thought about the problem of false vacuum. He used the combination of black and colored circles and holes to drive the audience to think with him. What can be in the middle?" "What is the composition of nothingness?" Although their respective teaching distances are only separated by a Charles River, there is not much overlap between Gus and Lewis. However, Lewis told his students that artists must be involved in all aspects of life, including science, philosophy and technology.



Bending time #4, 2017, cloth propylene, 170 x 170 cm

(Photo copyright belongs to Red Gate Gallery and artists)

In an interview in 2018, Mr. Lewis said that he is keen to explore the background factors of painting itself, and his works incorporate elements of disciplines such as quantum physics. From this point, it can be said that Mr. Lewis and German abstract expressionism are based on their new understanding of physics and the universe at that time, expressing the composition and philosophy of the universe through abstract visual symbols. Lewis is not only interested in the physics and vision of physics, but also fascinated by the double-stranded molecules of DNA and RNA. Lewis strives to learn more about human nature through the new possibilities offered by science. "The end of this way of thinking, at least in the place where they solve the problem that requires answers, not just through enumeration, cataloging, abstracts, Choose a list or a non-critical statement." By trying to understand the evolution of human consciousness, Lewis examines his inner life: the physical science symbolically represents inner life, so that the right knowledge should be shared with society. In Peter Wayne Lewis: Babacar M'Bow's Multilogues for the Human, Babaca wrote about the transformation of Lewis's abstract expression, namely How the image moves from opaque to open. "These secret spaces, despite fleeing visible light, are transcendental places to open up the art world." These are extremely complex, emotional, and intertwined in life and death. The expression was realized in Lewis's paintings.

# 2. The influence of African carving art and Chinese culture

In addition to being influenced by the Green Knight and the physical sciences, African art has also influenced Lewis's creations, especially the use of dots, lines and circles. The sculptures of the African Stone Age about 400,000 years ago show that dense dots, lines and circles have been used in African art and stone carvings for many years. The viewer can find the ruthless lines of the vines in Mr. Lewis's works, the layers of coils that are layered like a mysterious eye, and have a very high consistency with the early portrait sculptures in Africa. The irregularly arranged dots of different sizes, the rough lines of the concave bulges and the circles of different variations shape the most basic human form of African carving and convey the most simple emotions. The visual expression symbols associated with African engraving in Lewis's works reflect his identity as an African-American. In addition, Chinese culture has also influenced Lewis's creation subtly. Lewis has a deep respect for Chinese ink painting and painter Bada Shanren (Zhu Da). The works of Bada Shanren are known for their simplicity. Only a simple brush can create a sleek, simple and vivid moving picture. In the process of searching for inspiration and resonance, Lewis used the works of Bada Shanren as one of his dialogue screens and audience references. In the "Bending Time" series of paintings, dense dots are attached to each other with uniform lines to form a sharp contrast; the gradation of each painting transforms a single line of the plane into a cylindrical shape. Because Bada Shanren used a variety of transitions and passionate brushstrokes in his Chinese ink paintings, Lewis used similar expressions in his creations.

#### 3. The influence of jazz elements

Mr. Lewis once said, "The universe is a symphony created by color, light and beats." Music plays a very important role in his growth. Painting is more like playing "From Jamaica to China" Jamaican Special Envoy to China Qiu Weiji Attend Art Exhibition\_People's Daily Europe Net-People's Daily Overseas Editio...

jazz with color. . In this exhibition, Mr. Lewis's work complements the improvisation of jazz.



(The opening jazz performance, the photo copyright belongs to Red Gate Gallery)



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Jazz was born in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in New Orleans, the southern port city of the United States. It is rooted in Blues and Ragtime and is a combination of black African culture and European white culture. In Lewis's works, the lines are like chords. The coils are like the symbols in the staff. The ink dots are like a horn, a radial spray point and a coil-wrapped net, forming a high-pitched, dynamic image. The black background and the bright abstract symbols in the works are set against each other, the color flows, the dramatic conflicts, and the harmony and unity. It is the performance of flowing jazz on the twodimensional plane. Lewis also said that he is interested in "the dissonance of the musical structure and the art of painting with the concept of space and the content it contains." He linked the question "What's in nothing?" to music. He mentioned the great jazz pianist Thelonious Monk, who re-imagined the world by creating different time structures. Lewis's paintings also show his rhythm of love for music, which was passed to him by his father, jazz musician Hermann Lewis. When I was young, Lewis despised European classical music, African music, Caribbean music, Japanese music, Chinese music, etc. These different rhythms and musical styles influenced his artistic creation today. Lewis showed all the different musical rhythms he heard on the canvas with curves, angles, dots and colors.



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#### 4. The time and space view of philosophy and art

"Bending time" is both a philosophical theme and an aesthetic theme.

"Art is the most profound way to subtly adjust the expression of human beings. It will sublimate us from the world of animals and beasts, and at the same time present the lyrical role played by the world in all its beauty."

"Painting is a process in which a person solves a series of problems encountered in his creation in form, aesthetics, and philosophy. This way and process will produce something meaningful enough to influence others. The way I paint is Some moments of eagerness to express urgently at the moment, it is about life and death, in the process, everything makes sense."

These quotes from Lewis's own words describe his relationship with art and studio practice; understanding his life goals and goals is important. Peter Wayne Lewis's timeline records his experiences, past and future. Starting from Jamaica, Lewis' birthplace, eye-catching colors, bold strokes and thick lines tell the story of culture and people, how Lewis was shaped by the country he loves, and how it affects his life. . The "Bending Time" series of paintings shows the transformation of Lewis from Jamaica to California to China; from childhood to adulthood, "bending" is the weight and precipitation of life, "time" passes through the innocence of childhood, the vitality of youth, middle age the power of. The foundations and foundations of Lewis's life are curved in different directions, creating the people and artists he has become in the past, and constantly searching for what he will become in the future.

The Shanghai Shangshang International Art Museum, which is about to celebrate its 15th anniversary next year, looks forward to more cooperation with the 28-year-old Red Gate Gallery to actively promote modern and contemporary Chinese art and international exchanges.

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