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China Travel: Dafen Art Village

1 October 2014

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When we first read about Dafen village, we thought it would be just another fake market in China, only dealing exclusively with art. But when we visited last week, our expectations were exceeded. It all started when artist and businessman Huang Jiang brought together a few artists in the suburb of Buji, **Shenzhen** in the early 1990s. Since then, thousands of artists from all around China have made it their home -- and not only to create replicas of famous art, but also to sell their own unique work.

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Artist Yin Zhihui primarily does oil painting



Wu Jia Bo, from Wunan has been in Dafen for a year. He sells most of his work in the US and his wife helps him with sales.

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QUESTIONS?

We have the answers! Submit your questions to our team of Shanghai experts and get a response within 24 hours. Anything is fair game!



Yang Ming, suffering from scoliosis, moved from Guizhou four years ago and learned art at Dafen.



Chen Zhi Wei from Guangdong has been living in Dafen for 18 years. He studied art with a local Art Master in his home town.



Zhao Ze Qiao moved from Hainan to Dafen nine years ago and now

runs a cafe along with his studio, where he also gives art lessons. He believes his cafe gives the artists from the market a platform to gather and exchange ideas.



Artists Zhao Xiao Yong and his wife Zhong Zao Chun have been living in Dafen for over 20 years. They studied art in Changsha. They mostly deal with replicas of Van Gogh and Claude Monet. They frequently travel and work in the Netherlands, Germany and France, too.







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*Find more stories on Dafen in Peter Hessler's **Strange Stones***

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