



Langzhong Door God Paintings: Guardians Through Time

◎成都树德中学宁夏校区高三(8)班 刘姮欣

Strolling through the ancient streets of Langzhong, a historic gem in Sichuan Province, visitors are immediately drawn to the vibrant and imposing figures that decorate the wooden doors of many residences. These are the Langzhong Door God paintings — a living art form whose origins stretch back more than a thousand years to the Tang Dynasty. Far more than mere decorations, they intertwine faith, folklore and artistic heritage into a powerful cultural symbol, standing as the symbolic guardians of every household they grace.

What makes this art special is its traditional method of production. Artists carefully grind natural minerals to produce bright pigments: deep red from cinnabar, rich green from malachite, and bright blue from azurite. With these rich hues, they bring to life legendary generals from Chinese history and mythology — most notably, Qin Qiong and Yuchi Gong, two figures deeply associated with the Door God tradition. The generals are depicted with exaggerated forms, fierce facial expressions, and dynamic poses, all of which are outlined in bold, confident strokes. This deliberate style creates an aura of awe-inspiring power, intended to ward off evil spirits and usher in good fortune for the home.

The craft of Langzhong Door God painting was originally inspired by religious temple murals, but over time, it has evolved into a distinct and specialized folk tradition unique to the region. Every painting carries a quiet narrative of protection and



阆中门神画。图据阆中市文化馆公众号

blessing, with its meaning deeply intertwined with local culture. The intensity of the colors and the strength of the figures reflect the community's enduring hopes: for safety, health, and prosperity.

Today, recognized as intangible cultural heritage of Sichuan, Langzhong Door God painting is experiencing a much-needed revival. Master artists have taken on the role of mentors, passing down precise techniques to younger generations to ensure that this ancient skill does not fade away. These paintings now stand as dual guardians: they continue to watch over homes, as they have for centuries, and they also preserve the vibrant threads of Sichuan's diverse cultural tapestry. In a world racing toward modernization, they offer a colorful, tangible window into the province's soul — a place where history and artistry converge, quite literally, on the doorsteps of daily life.

译文

阆中门神画： 绘于门扉上的千年守护

在四川阆中这座历史瑰宝的古城里，漫步于青石板路上，你会被众多老宅木门上那色彩鲜艳、气势威严的画像所吸引。这些便是阆中门神画——一门可追溯至唐代、拥有千余年历史的“活态艺术”。它们远不只是简单的装饰，而是将信仰、民俗与艺术融为一体的文化符号，始终守护着张贴它们的每一户人家。

这门艺术的独特之处在于其传统制作工艺。画师们会将天然矿物精心研磨成色彩鲜亮的颜料——深邃的朱砂红、浓郁的孔雀石绿……凭借这些饱满的色彩，他们将中国历史与神话中的传奇人物栩栩如生地呈现出来，其中最具代表性的便是秦琼与尉迟恭，这两位名将的名字与门神文化有着密不可分的联系。门神画中的武将总是身形夸张健硕，面容威严有神，姿态充满动感，所有轮廓皆以豪放利落的笔触勾勒而成。这种独特风格营造出令人心生敬畏的气场，意在驱邪避灾，为家中招来吉祥与福气。

阆中门神画最初的灵感源自寺庙壁画，随着时间推移，逐渐发展成为当地独有的民间艺术传统。每一幅门神画都承载着一段关于守护与祈福的无声故事，其蕴含的意义早已深深融入地方文化之中。画中鲜明的色彩与刚劲的人物形象，正是当地人长久以来对平安、健康与顺遂的美好期盼的写照。

如今，作为四川省非物质文化遗产，阆中门神画正焕发出新的生机，这门手艺由经验深厚、扎根故土一生的老师傅传授给年轻一代的传承者。阆中门神画不仅是这一方家宅的守护者，更让人们透过色彩的窗棂看到绚烂深厚的四川文化灵魂，让历史与艺术在日常生活的门扉之上熠熠生辉。

(指导教师：成都树德中学宁夏校区 王彩晨)