

Bend Company Gives Older Chinese Orphans a Future

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Fourteen-year-old Xiao Fan lost his parents in a flood. Fifteen-year-old Si Xun has only one hand; when her parents divorced, neither wanted her. Sixteen-year-old Xiao Ying was found abandoned as an infant. Now, thanks to a new company in Bend and the dedication of a man raised in Chinese orphanages, these teens and several others have a shot at a secure future. Launched earlier this year, Scrolls From China sells intricate, museum-quality Chinese wall scrolls painted by the students. A full 30% of the scrolls' wholesale price, which is set by the students, goes directly to the artists; the rest pays for art supplies, scroll mounting and specific orphanage needs, including medical care. Founders Robert and Stephanie Tadjiki came up with the idea for Scrolls From China after traveling to China to adopt their daughter. They were saddened to discover that most orphans in China were turned out into the world at around 14 years of age with no money, no education, no families and no job skills. But in their daughter's orphanage, an artist named Kenny--whose parents, both doctors working in remote regions of China, were forced to leave him in orphanages while they traveled--had made it his life's work to teach older orphans the art of painting Chinese wall scrolls, in hopes of giving them a trade to carry with them as they left the orphanage. The Tadjikis felt moved to help Kenny and the children, and Scrolls From China was born. "Kenny is a gifted artist. We were impressed by his enthusiasm and even more impressed by the beauty and grace of the scrolls his students create," said Robert Tadjiki. "We are pleased to be in partnership with Kenny and his students. The children are overjoyed at the response to their work. They love hearing about how much the scrolls mean to people." With a glance at the children's work, displayed at ScrollsFromChina.com, one understands they are artists in their own right. Each Chinese wall scroll has five components essential to a traditional Chinese painting: Chinese ink, paper and silk, the tableau arrangement, the subject and seal, and the mounting. The students paint on rice paper and silk. Most of the paintings are mounted onto silk, though some are left unmatted for framing. Each scroll bears the artist's seal and comes with ceramic or wooden rods at the top and bottom, along with a silk ribbon for hanging. Some have a traditional feel, while others are stunning examples of contemporary Chinese art. "The quality of the art is exceptional," stated Robert Tadjiki. "These scrolls can help bring an authentic touch of China to any home, while supporting a cause that needs more visibility." To view the Chinese wall scrolls available for purchase and learn about the artists, visit <http://www.scrollsfromchina.com>. Interior designers can contact Robert Tadjiki at robert@scrollsfromchina.com.

Bend Company Gives Older Chinese Orphans a Future by Bend Weekly News Sources