



James Yang

1983年畢業于Virginia Commonwealth University。已經獲得過200多項插畫領域的獎項、他的作品曾刊登于美國眾多知名出版物，例如《Communication Arts Design Annual》，《Communications Arts Illustration Annual》，《Print Magazine》，《Graphis》，以及《The Society of Publication Designers Annual》。他的新書《Puzzlehead》已於2009年春出版。目前他與他的妻子工作生活于紐約布魯克林。

James Yang

Since graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1983, James Yang has won over 200 awards for excellence in illustration. His work has appeared in some of the most prestigious trade publications in the United States including Communication Arts Design Annual, Communications Arts Illustration Annual, Print Magazine, Graphis, and the Society of Publication Designers Annual. His newest book, “Puzzlehead will be released in Spring 2009. He and his wife currently live and work in Brooklyn, NY.

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Q：最近在做什麼項目（創作）？

A：我的兒童圖書《Puzzle head》今年初春出版，所以之前我一直在忙于這本書的宣傳等工作。現在接了一些雜誌的插畫工作，還有一些客戶是教育機構、慈善組織。同時我正在策劃出版一本新的兒童書籍。

Q：最近有哪些電影、雜誌、書籍、唱片令你印象深刻？

A：Jeffrey Rotter寫的小說《未知的已知》是我之前參加Rotter的書友會得到的。這本書已經在美國得到了廣泛的好評，我也非常喜歡它。小說反諷了9/11後的美國社會。《茉莉人生》是一部根據瑪嘉莎塔碧的同名漫畫而創作的動畫電影。還有一部我長久以來一直非常喜歡的電影叫做《血色將至》。

Q：最近發現了哪些特別有創意的事情？

A：我妻子最近買了任天堂推出的Wii遊戲機，這聽起來似乎很可笑，但是我實在是太沉迷於在遊戲中所扮演的角色了。很喜歡任天堂在遊戲中使用的音樂，淡淡的旋律很讓我陶醉。如果玩打保齡球遊戲，你可以看見你身旁的人打球還可以聽見他們出球之後的種種反應，總之任天堂的遊戲很人性化。

Q：最近給你最大創作靈感的人、事、物？

A：英國和美國播放過一部由Elvis Costello主持的叫做“奇觀”的談話類節目。這個節目集娛樂性與知識性於一體，我覺得這個電視節目很棒。Costello邊說邊表演各種他喜歡的樂器，并且深入探討音樂的影響等問題。談到音樂，Elvis Costello的大腦就像一部百科全書一般，我被他音樂相關知識的廣度和深度所吸引。看他的節目讓我得到的啟發是盡可能的發散思維從而創作出更好的作品。

Q：最近是否有新學會的生活或工作技能？

A：我剛剛從49Sparks上看了一個有關藝術家同時也是設計師John Hersey的網上視頻。他的藝術對我的影響很大，記得兩年前我們在舊金山的ICON conference上遇見，當時我非常激動。他說他也想認識我，或許他祇是出於禮貌，但我還是欣然接受。視頻裏播放了他的一些新的項目和極具實驗性的新作品，這些對我都是那麼新鮮，讓我激動萬分。所以我認為人一定要持續創新，Hersey尤其激發我要輕鬆自如的進行自己的藝術創作。

Q：What are you working on recently?

A：My children’s book, “Puzzle head” was just released this spring so I have been promoting the book and doing readings. At the moment, I’m doing assignments for various magazines and clients in the corporate, institutional, and educational field. I am also starting to think about a new children’s book, but it is at the very beginning stage.

Q：Is there any film, magazine, book or record which impresses you recently?

A：Jeffrey Rotter’s novel, “The Unknown Knowns” is something I picked up after attending a book reading by Rotter. I am excited to read it because it has gotten great reviews in the United States. The novel is a satire of our post 9/11 society. “Persepolis” the animated movie based on a graphic novel by Marjane Satrapi was amazing. For my movie, “There Will Be Blood” is the best movie I have seen in a long time.

Q：What’s the most creative thing that you discover lately?

A：My wife bought us a Wii recently and this may sound silly, but I really enjoy creating the characters that are supposed to be metaphors for yourself in the game. I think the music Nintendo uses is great and I love the little random touches they put in their games. For example in bowling, you see other characters bowling next to you and they react to their shots. The Nintendo environment is very well thought out.

Q：Whom and what inspire you the most recently?

A：Elvis Costello had a talk show series shown in the UK and the United States called “Spectacle: With Elvis Costello.” It was the best thing on television. The show was thoughtful and entertaining at the same time. Costello talks and performs with musicians he admires and they go into great depth about musical influences and how they approach music. Elvis Costello mind is like an encyclopedia when it comes to music, and I am impressed with the range of music he appreciates. His show makes me want to be more open-minded about possible influences for my work.

Q：最近關注的專業和專業以外的話題有哪些？

A：最關注的是：插畫家如何創作出既不同於印刷和數碼媒體，又能適應時代的藝術創作？雖然印刷品會一直存在，但是哪種形式會走的更長久？插畫雖然主要是通過印刷出售，但是我還是認為我們的創作也可以通過數碼媒介傳播。問題是人們不願意購買在網絡上就可以直接觀看的藝術品。

Q：最近的工作狀態如何？能否簡單描述一下你目前的工作狀態？

A：過去15年我一直是以自由插畫家師的身份工作和生活的。去年我和妻子從曼哈頓搬到布魯克林，我們為此變動而感到很開心。我們的鄰居有許多都是插畫師、藝術家、設計師、表演者。自1987年以來，David Goldman Agency一直是我的代理機構，David和我這麼多年的交情就好像我的婚姻一樣圓滿。

Q：近期有什麼樣令你感到最開心的事？

A：醫生告訴我要健康飲食，多做運動，所以最近正在改善自己的飲食習慣，并且定期去健身房健身。原來以為我會很討厭這種改變，可是實際上這種轉變讓我很享受。紐約也開始變暖了，我也可以打高爾夫球了。盡管我不是很喜歡打高爾夫球但是我還是要堅持。開始的時候我高興的像個小孩子，但是打完就變得沮喪。我大概是唯一一個沒有打高爾夫球天分的韓國人。

Q：近階段有什麼樣的工作計劃？

A：正在忙着為《Computerworld Magazine》設計封面，還被邀請在翠貝卡電影節上朗讀《Joey and Jet in Space》。

Q：目前全球性的經濟危機對你的工作和生活有什麼樣的影響和改變？

A：我確實感受到客戶大大縮減了對插畫師、攝影師的報酬。我和我的團隊非常關注於做一些行銷創意工作，并且盡可能的提高我們的生產力。這也許在經濟低潮期不是特別起作用，但是這樣能讓我們為迎接即將到來的經濟復蘇而保持良好的狀態。幸運的是，我和妻子過着節儉但很溫馨的生活，我們未雨綢繆，所以一切都還好。還有一點很開心的是在這個經濟低潮期能和朋友們分享悠閑時光是很難得的，一些之前很傲慢的人現在變得較為友善了。

Q：Have you get to learn something new for life and work recently?

A：I just saw a wonderful webcast from 49Sparks with Illustrator/Designer/Web Designer John Hersey. He is a big influence on my work and I was thrilled when we finally met a couple of years ago at the ICON conference in San Francisco. He also wanted to meet me so it was nice. Maybe he was saying this to be polite, but I’ll take it. In the webcast, he was showing different projects and experiments and I was amazed by how fresh his new work looks. The webcast really taught me you are never to old to keep innovating. Hersey makes me feel like I need to be more playful with my work.

Q：What kind of topics are you focusing in your profession recently and how about the other fields?

A：The big question is how do illustrators make the adjustment to a world that is moving away from print and towards digital media? I am sure there will still be print, but what forms will survive? Illustration is mainly a print focused profession, but I think there is obviously a path for our work to have value in the digital world. The only problem is, people don’t really want to pay for it on the web.

Q：How’s your recent work status? Can you describe briefly about your current work status?

A：I have lived and worked as a freelance illustrator in New York for the last 15 years. Last year, my wife and I moved to Brooklyn from Manhattan and are very happy with the move. Many of our friends are illustrators, artists, designers, and performers who live in our neighborhood. The David Goldman Agency has been my representative since 1987. David and I have been together so long it is almost like a marriage.

Q：Is there anything that makes you happy recently?

A：My doctor told me I had to eat healthier and do more aerobics so I changed my diet and joined a gym. I thought I would hate the change, but the new routine has been enjoyable. New York has finally gotten warm so I can finally play golf. Actually golf does not make me happy but I am obsessed. I am happy like a little puppy at the beginning of my round, but depressed after my round. I must be the only Korean who does not have a talent for golf.

Q：What’s your current project?

A：I am working on a cover story for Computerworld Magazine .I have also been asked to do a reading for “Joey and Jet in Space” for the Tribeca film festival.

Q：Has the global economic recession affected your work and life, if so, what are the impact and changes?

A：I have definitely felt the impact with clients that have gone out of business or publications that have had to make big cuts in the payment to illustrators, writers and photographers. My rep and I are very focused on doing all the promotional and creative work we can do and be as productive as possible. It may not pay off now with the downturn, but we will be in good shape for the recovery. Fortunately, my wife and I live a pretty simple life and we did save for a rainy day, so things are fine. One nice thing about the downturn is my friends and I seem to really enjoy our social time together. Also, people who were arrogant before the downturn are now friendlier.











