

The Golden Lotus Shoe

By Anthony Van Lam



THE GOLDEN LOTUS SHOE

This exhibition explores the complex relationship between beauty and perfection. History shows us people will do anything in the pursuit of 'beauty' as many of us aspire to achieve 'perfection'. But are we our own worst enemy – standing in our own way of achieving perfection? Or do we have a twisted view of what beauty and perfection really are? What is beauty anyway? What is perfection?

In a world not too far away, the humble shoe is underpinned with layers of meaning and memories. For centuries, shoes were used to shape a society's ideal of beauty and perfection. Can a pair of three-inch shoes that encased not only feet – but thousands of years of trapped memories – be beautiful? Or are they torture? Did those wearing shoes so seemingly beautiful on the outside actually achieve perfection?

"I like my paintings to act as a catalyst for the observer to think and reflect. To act as a reminder that everyone is beautiful in their own way. We don't have to try too hard to meet people's or society's expectations or to get accepted. We should accept our own beauty as we are all unique.

"If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, then the person who is observing gets to decide what is beautiful." Beauty doesn't exist on its own but is created by us, the observer. I don't want people to put themselves through this torture and allows others to push them into becoming something they're not. History shows us one thousand years of abuse and torture should teach us that cherish and learn from the past to make better choices.

"It's a very personal exhibition for me because I know that everyone goes through living with self-doubt; we're driven to better ourselves. There is pressure from a society where people often say 'Be humble and be aware that there will always be someone better than you. You'll never be what people want you to be.'

ABOUT ANTHONY VAN LAM

The stylistic, expressive paintings of Australian artist Anthony Van Lam are as tranquil and magical as they are profound. Working in mix media on canvas or paper, he paints from a range of subject matter to explore how lines, colours, organic shapes, flowers, animals and surface patterns intersect in unique ways to create form. With a background in fashion design, the artist has an excellent sense of composition and can place objects expertly in the picture plane, finding new meanings in the familiar subject by isolating them and manipulating forms in terms of scale, colour, and shadow. Known for his bold and colourful designs in fashion, Anthony's paintings reveal his true passion for flowers that are immediately eye-catching.

His current works capture exotic water lilies in a perfume lake. Elegantly depicted, they offer tranquillity, calmness and allow you to leave your stresses behind when you look at one of his artworks. Perhaps the hallmark of Anthony Van Lam's work is his remarkable use of colour and the way he can manipulate light and shadow to bring his work to an entirely new level. Indeed, there is an ethereal component to his work, a sense of the surreal. In the end, these engaging paintings encourage us to find the magical in the everyday.



ANTHONY VAN LAM
Seducing the dragon, 2020
Watercolour and ink on archival paper
Framed: 73 x 53 cm
AUD 500

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Seducing the dragon, 2020

Watercolour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

The story of foot binding began in the Song Dynasty (960–1127). A dance of seduction to lure Emperor Li Yu. It was the courtesan Ya Ning who successfully captured the Dragon with her dancing. It triggered the main influence of China's long treacherous journey, a journey that tormented young females for many generations. A generation of sacrificial beauty. It became the birth of the foot binding "The Golden Lotus Shoe Saga!

As the story was told, the Emperor was weakened by Ya Ning's trance as she bound her feet in the shape of the New Moon! She was believed to be dancing on a 6ft Lotus festoon with ribbons and precious stones heavily set to mark this occasion! Her dancing and her bound feet were celebrated as she glided on the festoon. It was the most beautiful and most seductive sight ever. This becomes the desires and motivation of all civilians and their demise generations later!

Achieving this procedure, you will be desired as a perfect lady in waiting. You will be fertile and married into a wealthy family, and your whole family will be more affluent.

This painting in Shades of Blue shows the Courtesan Ya Ning with a seductive stare. Behind her, there are dancing cranes famous for their mating dance. The 'Longpao' on display symbolizes the Emperor. Also, a faint silhouette of her delicate Lotus shoe is indented to remind of her sacrifices. She is bound by the grip of the dragon sash, which symbolizes the foot binding and the love and protection of the Royal Highness!

AUD 500





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Viral Elitist, 2020
Water colour and ink on archival paper
Framed: 73 x 53 cm
AUD 450

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Viral Elitist, 2020

Water colour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

From the start, foot-binding was imbued with erotic overtones. Gradually, other court ladies, with money and spare time, took up foot-binding, making it a status symbol among the elite. This practice travelled among poorer families yearning for wealth, fertility and a better future and life for family and future generations.

An Egg in Blue promotes many positive messages and hope and reaches out to the peacock's imperial wealth. From a dance performance in the Song Dynasty (960-1127), it quickly went viral to the farm villages and many Dynasties later!

The Mongols tried to ban this practice and so to the Qing dynasty. But still, it was practised in secret. Other shoes were created to mimic the fluid and seductiveness of the Lotus shoe! Though it was banned for over 100 years, other countries created different versions and different apparatus in the name of sacrificial beauty.

AUD 450





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Lighting the Green Lantern, 2021
Water colour and ink on archival paper
Framed: 73 x 53 cm
AUD 450

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Lighting the Green Lantern, 2021

Water colour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

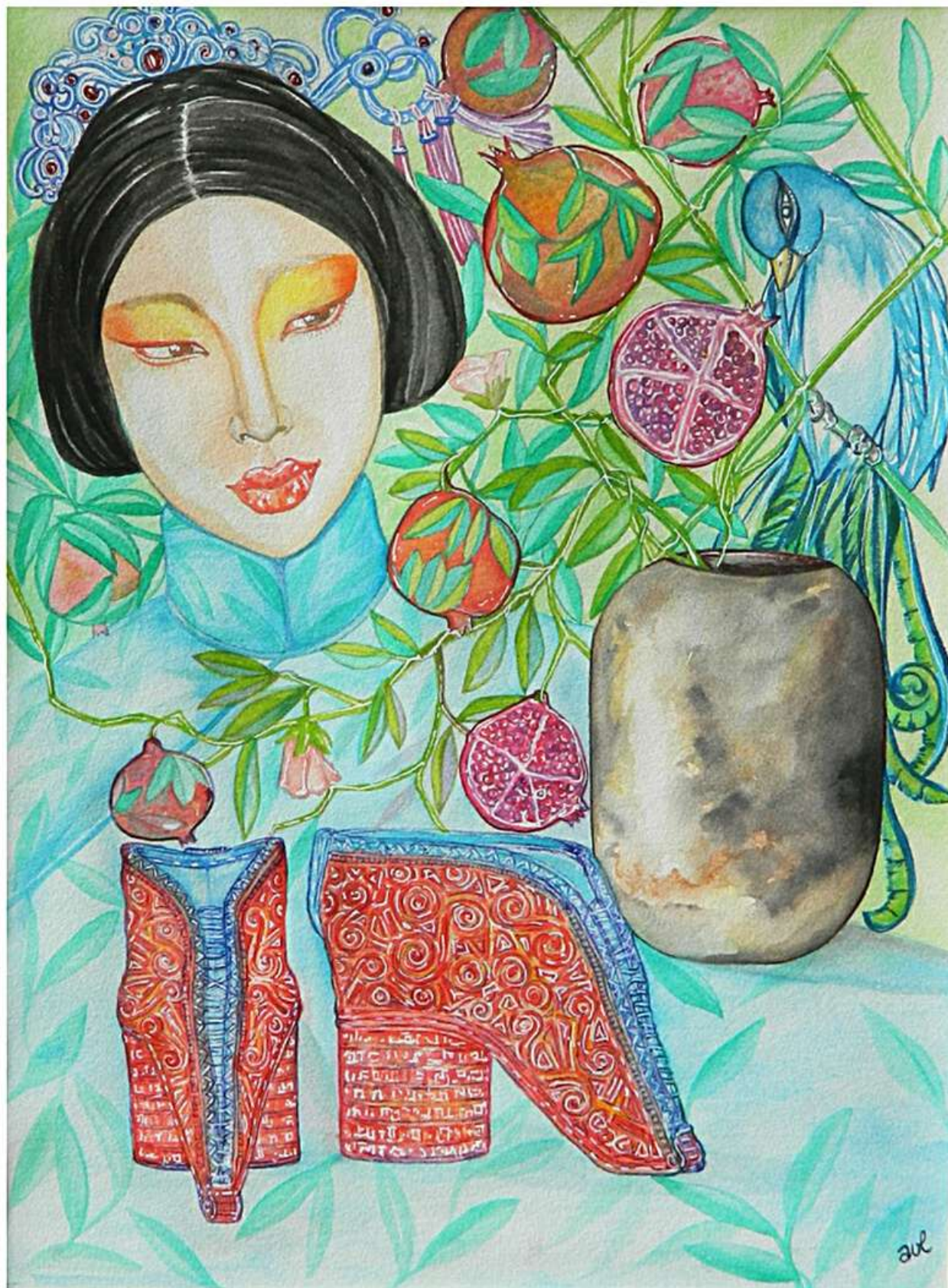
Like most things in the modern world, if things are popular, they go viral. This painting is of a dancer lighting up the green lantern! The lantern is painted with Celadon scrolls. The Golden Lotus shoe is placed on the bottom belly of the lantern. When lit, it radiates on to the majestic plant! In its soft flickering light, it attracts lovebirds and all different butterflies! The tree will glow like little fairy lights.

This is based on the Dancer Yi Nang, the Emperor and her Lotus shoe! The majestic tree is the Emperor and his people!

This is how the ritual stays alight through dynasties! Surging rumours, greed and expectation.

AUD 450





ANTHONY VAN LAM
A lady in waiting, 2021
Water colour and ink on archival paper
Framed: 53 x 43 cm
AUD 400

ANTHONY VAN LAM

A lady in waiting, 2021

Water colour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

All young girls want to marry into a wealthy family. The pressure of living back then was difficult, and a lot harder to have good options. The only way was to follow what is rumoured as quickest out of poverty. So when there is news to improve your chances, people will sacrifice everything for a better life!

So when the trend of binding your feet became popular, a gift of a pair of Lotus shoes was very popular but the receiver never really knows what is in for them! I remember watching films and saw how people cherished a pair of shoes given to them!

In this painting, a young Ming lady is waiting with gifts she received from her parents for her special day! She is blessed with a gold vase displayed with juicy plump pomegranates. She is admiring these gifts and loves sharing these fruits with her pet bird! All symbolism for better fortune and happier times ahead!

AUD 400





ANTHONY VAN LAM
3 inch Golden Lotus shoe, 2021
Watercolour on paper
Framed: 50 x 50 cm
AUD 350

ANTHONY VAN LAM

3 inch Golden Lotus shoe, 2021

Watercolour on paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

What's not love about red?

Red, the colour of blood and fire, is associated with meanings of love, passion, desire, heat, longing, lust, sexuality, sensitivity, romance, joy, strength, leadership, courage, vigour, willpower, rage, anger, danger, malice, wrath, stress, action, vibrance, radiance, and determination. So many meanings – but love is the most. In Chinese tradition, red is used for all sorts of festive celebrations: Lunar New Year and Weddings!

This painting shares a bittersweet journey of this old pair of Golden Lotus shoes! Old and almost lost its shape, but Golden for a reason. It is the smallest one of the three categories!

Golden - 3 inches (Chinese inches 6-8 cm);
Silver - 4 inches;
Iron - 5 inches.

These are all measuring up to one part chauvinistic in the way people wanted the more inferior sex to be! So the smaller, the better you will be. You will be more fertile, beautiful and desirable. You will marry into a wealthy family, and your sacrifice will aid your family for generations. People also believed the swaying and gliding walks are also very seductive and tighten your delicate flower.

The Fengguan or Kuituo is behind the Golden Lotus shoe as it's not the most important to compare this pair of Golden Lotus shoes, but the size is.

AUD 350





ANTHONY VAN LAM
How small should it be?, 2020
Watercolour and ink on archival paper
Framed: 50 x 50 cm
AUD 350

ANTHONY VAN LAM

How small should it be?, 2020

Watercolour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

This painting is a study in blue.

Blue is not a colour for weddings. Generally, blue or azure and green is associated with health, prosperity, and harmony. In astrology, it is represented by the Azure Dragon, also a national symbol in the past.

The old term is Qing. Azure was used for roof tiles of the Temple of Heaven and its ornate interior and several other structures to represent heaven. It is also the colour of jade and celadon that was developed to imitate it. But they also use a lot of Kingfisher feathers to create jewellery for headpieces. The painting is of a little blue shoe that is a little worn out and not smaller enough, but the sacrifices and journeys are there. Your day is only as good as what you make of it!

AUD 350





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Remembering the story of the 3-inch shoe! 2021
Watercolour on paper
Framed: 50 x 50 cm
AUD 350

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Remembering the story of the 3-inch shoe!, 2021

Watercolour on paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Red is a popular colour in Chinese culture, symbolizing luck, joy, and Happiness. It also represents celebration, vitality, and fertility. Red is the traditional colour worn by Chinese brides as it's believed to ward off evil.

The bride-to-be is wearing her traditional heavily adorned headpiece called the Fengguan. (Chinese: 凤冠; pinyin: fèngguān). This traditional Chinese headgear was worn mainly by noblewomen during the Ming dynasty for ceremonies or official occasions. It is also traditional headgear for brides. Along with brides and her red raging Fengguan, she is staring at the past of the 3 inch Lotus shoe!

AUD 350





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Encircling the Lotus shoes, 2021
Watercolour on paper
Framed: 50 x 50 cm
AUD 350

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Encircling the Lotus shoes, 2021

Watercolour on paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Green is similar in both Western symbolism and traditional Chinese culture. In the West, green represents harmony, wealth, growth, and eco-friendliness. In Chinese culture, green stands for cleanliness and purity from contamination.

This painting is the story of life balance. We make good and wrong choices, but it's how we turn them around. We need to breathe, grow and learn. There should be no casualties on our journey! There are better ways than putting people down or stepping over them to succeed. Don't be envious of what you don't have. Desire and greed are not the same.

AUD 350





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Flirting with the lotus, 2020
Water colour and ink on archival paper
Framed: 50 x 50 cm
AUD 350

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Flirting with the lotus, 2020

Water colour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

In traditional Chinese art and culture, black, red, qing (青) (a conflation of green and blue), white and yellow, are standard colours. These correspond to the five elements: water, fire, wood, metal and earth, as taught in traditional Chinese physics.

The Yellow River is the cradle of Chinese civilization and was the Emperor's colour in Imperial China. It is the symbolic colour of the five legendary emperors of ancient China, like the Yellow Emperor. A peacock symbolizes long life or immortality. In every sense, the peacock signifies purity to the Buddhist, so their feathers are often used in purification ceremonies.

This painting of the golden Lotus shoe is in all its beads and glory. Small in size but filled with beads and gemstones! The colours are of Imperial China. In the background is a peacock in its fullness flirting with the shoe, while a silhouette watches over the shoe. The message: everything has its value in gold, especially to those who want something from you.

AUD 350





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Imperial Refinement, 2021
Watercolour on Arches Paper
Framed: 53 x 43 cm
AUD 400

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Imperial Refinement, 2021

Watercolour on Arches Paper

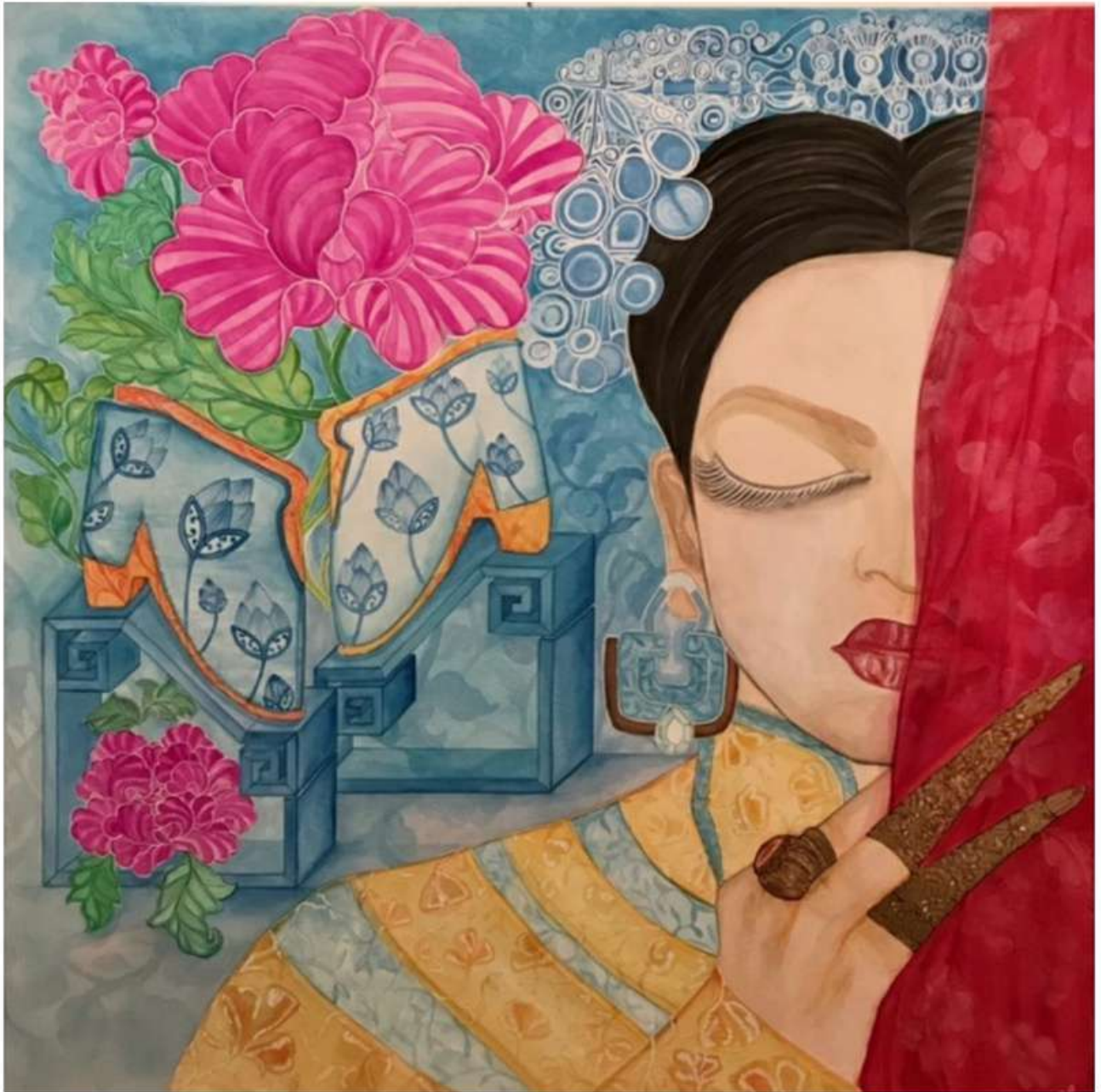
ARTWORK STATEMENT

Qing dynasty tried to ban the hysteria of the lotus shoe practice. Instead, they redesigned a pair of shoes with the same effect as the original Golden Lotus shoe even to the delicate flowing walk which would make them glide on the wind! They also give them height and balance. To balance themselves, they would use a silk handkerchief when they walk. The headpieces were introduced, so it was worn to remind them of their Manchu roots!

In this painting, the Dowager has the final say. They are heavily adorned with coloured embroideries. The new designs of the shoe have a heavier base. It had a better design and influenced a lot of other cultures to create similar designs! Once again the lotus and lotus seeds are used in this painting as a symbol of purity, enlightenment, self-regeneration and rebirth!

AUD 400





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Delicate Peony, 2021
Watercolour on Canvas
60 x 60 cm
AUD 650

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Delicate Peony, 2021

Watercolour on Canvas

60 x 60 cm

ARTWORK STATEMENT

How good is it to be a desire by everyone especially men? Do you want to help your family to become wealthy?

The process of foot binding took a length of 3 arduous years. It was not a pleasant journey for these young girls. Usually, at a very young age, they have to go through this painful process. This sacrifice is a result of hope, desire & greed. These ideals are drummed into their heads and they were often forced.

The promised results are - you will be fertile and you will give your family with lots of children, you will be desirable, you will be married into a wealthy family and your family will prosper from all your sacrifices. But most importantly by going through this process your delicate flower will be firm and ready for your husband to be and you will be desired as you will fully satisfy him. This sounds like a fairytale created by men and their needs to be in control.

I have chosen to paint peonies. As it can be delicate and beautiful. They symbolize the beauty of marriage and are often used in floral bouquets at weddings. Pink peonies can also represent love at first sight. Also in this painting, a young lady with status is standing behind dark heavy blood-red curtains. She is the only semi-exposed almost in hiding but she is clenching on the drapes. You can see her expression. Next to her a pair of lotus shoe on display stands and peony dancing around them. This represents her Golden status and how desirable she is. She shows strength and vulnerability at the same time!

Her beauty lies in her delicate peony!

AUD 650





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Reminiscing, 2021
Water colour and ink on archival paper
Framed: 73 x 53 cm
AUD 450

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Reminiscing, 2021

Water colour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Surrounded by objects from the past! Good or bad, but over time it gets easier.

History does repeat itself, but you have to be ready to face it with open arms. I love the blue foundation for this painting! It has a soft cool light which makes it soothing and gives a calm sensation. By introducing the brighter colours, it will make you appreciate what's around you a lot more. I love the interaction between the subject matters. Everything is circling the female subject as she kneels to appreciate it more. The cute little lotus shoe is a bittersweet reminder of the past and welcomes you to the future.

AUD 450





ANTHONY VAN LAM

Changing the lotus shoes with the same sentiments, 2020

Water colour and ink on archival paper

Framed: 59 x 42 cm

AUD 200

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Changing the lotus shoes with the same sentiments, 2020

Water colour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

The Lotus shoe has made its mark in history as in most things in life! You can try to stop it but there will always be other ways of introducing the same sentiments. In this painting, you will see a new shape of the shoe created for the same reason to make the women glide when she walks. To give her height and seductiveness as she will sway and will balance herself with her silk handkerchief. There lots of messages and symbolism in this painting.

The Lotus flower is regarded in many different cultures, especially in Eastern religions, as a symbol of purity, enlightenment, self-regeneration and rebirth. Its characteristics are a perfect analogy for the human condition: even when its roots are in the dirtiest waters.

The Lotus produces the most beautiful flower. The modern dragonfly in bamboo bending in tradition is protected and watched by a pair of spectacles. Also, the Liangbatou (Lian-barh-to) is a hairstyle/headdress worn by Manchu women. It was used as imperial propaganda to show support for the Qing Dynasty and strengthen Manchu ties.

AUD 200





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Festering with Lotus Green, 2020
Watercolour and pen
Framed: 38 x 23 cm
AUD 150

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Festering with Lotus Green, 2020

Watercolour and pen

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Smaller as it starts as innocent in green. It mimics the elitist's life as every new dynasty is always watching and competing among themselves to be better or married into power.

This painting depicts a Sense of Green Envy, but with poise and gazing stares! She is stuck in the Manchu Qing dynasty, welled in the tradition of the East, and influencing the West. Hence the tight Qipao, all the Lotus swirls and scrolls represent the Lexi stance of gossip and secretive lives of the Lotus shoes and its secrets!

AUD 150





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Deeper Reds and changing times! 2020
Pen & Watercolour
Framed: 34 x 26 cm
AUD 200

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Deeper Reds and changing times! 2020

Pen & Watercolour

ARTWORK STATEMENT

The deep, dark red is the result of mixing red with a dash of green and blue resulting in brown with purple undertones. It's more sophisticated and serious than true red, symbolizing ambition, wealth, and power.

This painting is a study of ever-changing China and the change of silhouette in women Qipao. It became tighter and slimmer in silhouette, less adornment but embroideries were still used! Western influence is also evident, but political propaganda use of Lianbatou was still used. With these changes, new shoe versions were designed to create the same illusion as the Lotus shoe without the painful struggle of feet binding.

AUD 200





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Lotus shoe fantasy, 2021
Watercolour on Arches paper
Framed: 73 x 53 cm
AUD 450

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Lotus shoe fantasy, 2021

Watercolour on Arches paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Welcome to my world!.

Sometimes I like to combine all the things I like and collage them into a painting. It could be anything! In this painting, I chose to paint a dancer in the background, and with one swoop of her large sleeve, all the magical things will fall out of it, creating a whirlwind of wild fantasy! I used a golden orange, blues and magenta. Such rich colours! It makes me feel like I want to be in this whirlwind of gorgeous colour and interesting objects!

AUD 450





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Aftermath of the Golden Lotus shoe - Limited Edition of 5 2021
Digital Print Special Edition Framed
Framed: 84 x 60 cm
AUD 400

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Aftermath of the Golden Lotus shoe -

Limited Edition of 5, 2021

Digital Print Special Edition Framed

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Although foot binding was banned for over 100 years, the ritual continued hidden away. Now it's at an end. Even the factories that make these shoes are closed too.

The young ladies are now senior but are not frail. They are strong, powerful matriarchs. Thinking of the aftermath of their sacrifice, they should lay flat, still and be not mobile! But an infant with sheer determination works the fields and gets on with their life. Most have raised children and grandchildren.

Here, I try to show the aftermath of it all. The woman is strong and resilient, like all women. She has survived. She was once a young girl; she married and worked hard. She is a mother, head of the family, is respected and a grandmother. She survived it all, and the respect is all the richness in her stories. The proof is she is still standing tall on her two feet!

AUD 400





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Sacrificial Beauty, 2021
Digital Print Special Edition Framed
Framed: 84 x 60 cm
AUD 400

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Sacrificial Beauty, 2021

Digital Print Special Edition Framed

ARTWORK STATEMENT

A journey filled with tradition and beauty, and a lot of anguish and pain! This act of beauty is often created by the opposite sex and forced on an image they see as beautiful. Forced submission and filled with immense inferior complex! We always yearn to be something we cannot be! Many issues were created due to small minds turning it into a media of big dilemmas too many generations and even escalating through dynasties.

It is about the status of the fertile and desirable woman. You will marry and have lots of children. Your wealth and happiness will be all for you and your family. Your future generations will benefit from your sacrifices. Your sacrifices will better your chances to become a sophisticated woman with all the riches in the world. There are many and much more traumatic hardships that are created to control the weaker sex.

This painting was not to point out the actual act itself but just how far they will go, and the sacrifices, yet people will still practice these extremities! We all know the horrors and its results. This reminds us we can fall into all influences and tortures created by others.

I have painted the lilies in different shades as the most common meaning of lilies is purity and fertility. The lily flower's sweet and innocent beauty has given it the association of fresh life and rebirth. But it also can be the flower of death!

AUD 400





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Shades of Blue, 2020
Watercolour and ink on archival paper
Framed: 73 x 53 cm
AUD 450

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Shades of Blue, 2020

Watercolour and ink on archival paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Blue calls to mind the feeling of calmness or serenity. Often described as peaceful, tranquil, secure, and orderly, blue is seen as a sign of stability and reliability.

This painting shows different shades of blue and radiates to all its descriptions. There are different types of vases with flowers of hibiscus, orchids and tulips. We all love flowers.

These objects have images of things I like to paint and that have meaning. These symbolize, wellness, protection and beauty! There is a trinket porcelain jar that has something in it. In the painting, I added another pair of Lotus shoes and a fringe tassel keyring!

AUD 450





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Floating amongst a field of lotus 2020
water colours on canvas
30 x 30 cm
AUD 300

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Floating amongst a field of lotus, 2020

water colours on canvas

30 x 30 cm

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Lotus is one of the most significant flowers in Chinese culture. It symbolizes the holy seat of Buddha. Because the flower rises from the mud and blooms in exquisite beauty, it indicates both the heart and mind's perfection and purity. It represents long life and honour.

In this painting, the Lotus shoe is camouflaged in a field of beautiful floating Lotus! The Lotus is detailed with sacred Sanskrit and shows that beautiful things like life will always prevail even in the most challenging conditions.

AUD 300





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Hibiscus Embroidery, 2020
watercolour embroidery on canvas
30 x 30 cm
AUD 300

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Hibiscus Embroidery, 2020

watercolour embroidery on canvas

30 x 30 cm

ARTWORK STATEMENT

It was known that at the later stage of the foot binding, though illegal, the traditions continued. It was rumoured that as the younger men were at war, daughters still had their feet bound, so were more submissive and had to sit to embroider and do fieldwork!

In this painting, I chose the Hibiscus as it is regarded as the symbol of devotion and loyalty! Once again, the embroidered Lotus shoe is camouflaged in a bush of Hibiscus attracted by butterflies. Also, there is a silhouette of a lady kneeling. The peasant girl shares the belief that foot binding was to keep daughters at plantations, sitting at tasks, such as embroidery.

AUD 300





ANTHONY VAN LAM
What is behind the Pomegranate?, 2021
Watercolour on Canvas
30 x 30 cm
AUD 300

ANTHONY VAN LAM

What is behind the Pomegranate?, 2021

Watercolour on Canvas

30 x 30 cm

ARTWORK STATEMENT

With its plump rose-coloured exterior, its red juice, an abundance of gleaming ruby-red seeds that burst when the fruit is split open, the pomegranate is a powerful symbol of fertility and female sexuality. It was considered an aphrodisiac and, therefore, often presented at weddings. In this painting, it's devoured by birds that are camouflaging a pair of delicate lotus shoes. It may be hidden away behind closed doors but still exists!

AUD 300





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Three Happy Couples - My version of toile 2020
Watercolour on paper
Framed: 35 x 27 cm
AUD 200

ANTHONY VAN LAM

*Three Happy Couples - My version of
toile, 2020*

Watercolour on paper

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Toile is French for linen cloth. Toile de Jouy was a specific linen type printed with romantic, pastoral patterns in a single colour, usually black, blue, or red, on an unbleached fabric.

I began with the three oriental brides and grooms all in their traditional wedding costumes! I created this artwork from my journey from the Golden Lotus shoe! I was fascinated with costumes and was eager to develop my own traditional outfits and silhouettes, with print and other detail. This resulted in my other 3 bigger studies of Double Happiness across 3 different dynasties.

AUD 200





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Song Dynasty (960-1127) - Double Happiness, 2021
Watercolour on Canvas
Framed: 40 x 30 cm

AUD 350

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Song Dynasty (960-1127) - Double Happiness, 2021

Watercolour on Canvas

ARTWORK STATEMENT

Each Double Happiness painting is in a different dynasty. This the Gold Yellow - Yellow corresponding to earth and symbolizes royalty and is reserved for the Emperor. The first Emperor of China was known as the Yellow Emperor.

This bride and groom are Royalty in the Song Dynasty. The Groom is always older and frail in stature. This is the dynasty that began the whole Lotus foot saga!

I framed this couple in Bamboo and Pomegranate with Double Happiness Lantern, a pair of lotus shoes and a bird seems to be pecking into the bamboo as the couple are poised and ready for their wedding day

AUD 350





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) -Double Happiness, 2021
Watercolour on paper
Framed: 40 x 30 cm

AUD 350

ANTHONY VAN LAM

*Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) -Double
Happiness, 2021*

Watercolour on paper

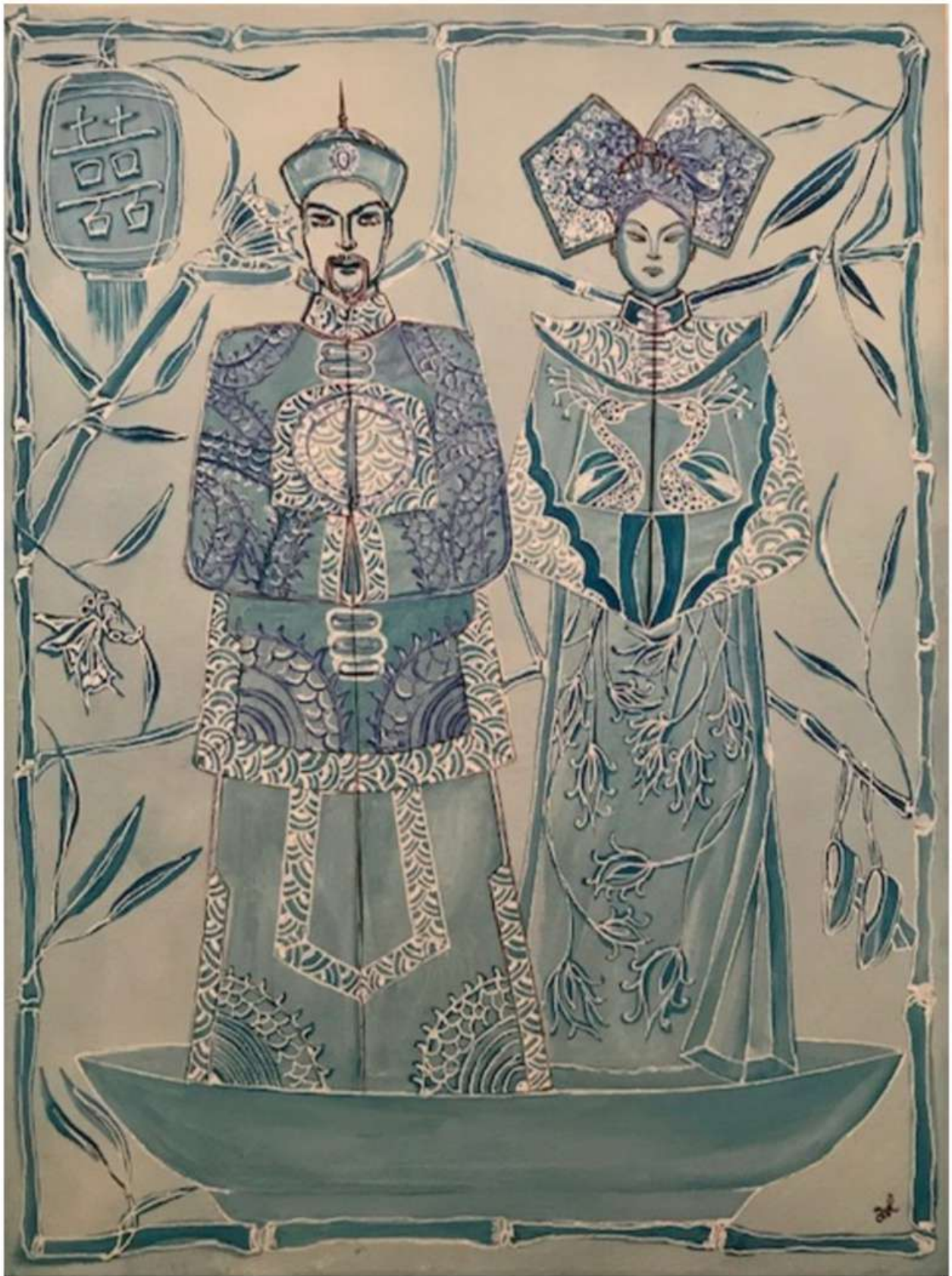
ARTWORK STATEMENT

This is the Han people, based on lighter and more flowing clothing, later named Hanfu! Royal or official weddings are more relaxed in design. Silhouette is loose, and layering is heavily used. The embroidery is less detailed, but the designs are more delicate with prints and light beadings. For a special occasion such as a wedding, they were still elaborate.

Mostly in red and often both bride and groom have elaborate wedding sashes with a double bouquet of fabric ribbons. Almost in all dynasties, the bride will have a heavily embroidered silk veil and swimming with beads. Also, most will wear the beautiful and elaborate Kuituo.

AUD 350





ANTHONY VAN LAM
Qing Dynasty (1644 to 1912) - Double Happiness, 2021
Watercolour on Canvas
40 x 37 cm
AUD 350

ANTHONY VAN LAM

Qing Dynasty (1644 to 1912) - Double Happiness, 2021

Watercolour on Canvas

40 x 37 cm

ARTWORK STATEMENT

This is a royal wedding painting from the Qing Dynasty in blue! Blue is a primary colour across all models of colour space. The colour of the ocean and the sky; it often symbolizes serenity, stability, wisdom or inspiration. It can be calming and represent reliability.

Both bride and groom are heavily adorned with embroidery and beading of the Dragon and the Phoenix - two of the most powerful symbols of success and prosperity in Chinese mythology. In Feng Shui, they are considered to be the ultimate symbols of love and marital joy. Dragon is the 'yin', phoenix the 'yang', a perfect balance for a successful married life. The Bride is wearing the Liangbatou (Lian-barh-to), a hairstyle/headdress worn by Manchu women. It was used as imperial propaganda to show support for the Qing Dynasty and strengthen Manchu ties. The Groom has a cue hairstyle.

AUD 350





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