序

300多年来，宜兴紫砂壶在西方世界产生了极大的影响。这种影响之所以能够成为可能，只是因为在数个世纪以来有过许许多多富有才华的艺术家。周定芳就是这样一位艺术家，她的作品今天仍在继续丰富着宜兴紫砂壶的古老传统。她是一位难得的艺术家，在不断发展这种古老的技艺的同时，也在表达着她自己的思想。她的国家，许多人对她赞誉有加，在国外，人们由衷地喜爱她的作品，并给予诸多奖项，因而也成为私人收藏家和公共收藏机构的藏品。

周定芳的茶壶反映出时代的特色。尽管如此，宜兴最优秀的壶师们一样，她的茶壶已经远远地超出实用性器物的范畴。它们是智慧和深厚艺术造诣的结晶。她运用了一套完整的艺术语言，将独特的技巧与具有叙事性的领悟融为一体，从而使她的作品充满了智慧、幽默和魅力。这些作品是对今天的一天记录，同时也对传统的一种敬仰，更使我们看到了未来。

在新千年的黎明时分，中国正迈着快速的步伐向前发展着。随着中国构筑自己新的梦想，艺术领域也在这场浪潮中迅速发展。这个时代令人感到振奋。然而，开拓新的艺术空间则可能充满着种种危险。周定芳就是这样一位富有勇气的新的开拓者，从她的艺术创作中可以看到这一点。作为一名艺术使者，她奔波于许多国家。周定芳的紫砂作品折射出一种新的、具有表现力的自由性，而这种自由性不仅带来了活力，更给以美感。对所有的人来说，这些成就已经成为一种财富。

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马文·史维特

PREFACE

By Marvin Sweet

Yixing teapots have exerted a strong influence in the West for over 300 years. This can only be possible because of many talented artists over the centuries. Zhou Dingfang is an artist whose work continues to build upon the glorious tradition of Yixing teaware. She is that rare artist who expresses her personal voice while furthering a great tradition. Much sought after in her own country, her work is greatly admired and prized abroad for private and public collections.

The teapots of Zhou Dingfang reflect their time and place. However, like the best of the Yixing masters, her teapots are more than mere utilitarian objects. They are objects of intelligence and artistic sophistication. Using the universal language of art, she has married extraordinary technique with a narrative insight which gives her work wit, humor and charm. The results are a record of today, while continuing to pay homage to the past and giving us a glimpse of the future.

China, at the dawn of a new millennium, is growing at a rapid pace. As China builds it's new dream the arts are being swept up in the tide. This is an exciting time. However, forging new frontiers can be filled with perils. Zhou Dingfang is one of China's courageous new trailblazers. This is seen through examples of her artistic creations and her travels as an arts ambassador to many foreign countries. The zisha wares of Zhou Dingfang reflect a new expressive freedom that is once dynamic and beautiful. These accomplishments have become a treasure to all.