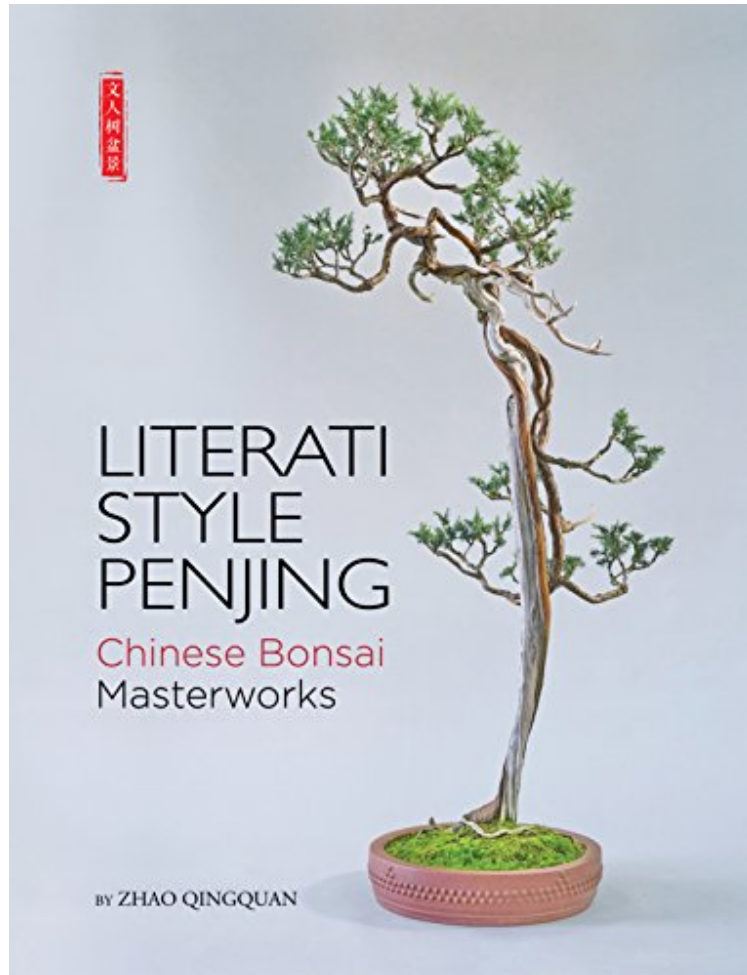


Literati Style Penjing: Chinese Bonsai Masterworks

Zhao Qingquan

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Zhao Qingquan : Literati Style Penjing: Chinese Bonsai Masterworks before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Literati Style Penjing: Chinese Bonsai Masterworks:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Expand your horizons, bonsai enthusiasts!By CustomerExcellent book. I cannot say enough good things about this. If you are into bonsai then you should learn something about Chinese penjing. Expand your horizons, bonsai enthusiasts!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful pictures and informationBy Jeremy ErbAbsolutely outstanding book and unique. This is a must for anyone interesting in Penjing or Literati styles. Wonderful pictures and information.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly accessible and complete book suitable to beginners and experienced individuals alikeBy C. SpockThis is a great overview and introduction to Literati style penjing (or dare I say bunjin style bonsai as well). Regardless of your affinity towards Chinese penjing or Japanese bonsai, this book is a good one to have in your library. It covers a wide range of topics from the historical origin and nature of the literati school of aesthetic, to

providing a very good and basic introduction to tree styling, care, and presentation. It provides a fair amount of background combined with lots of photos and then provides several series of technical progressions of nursery stock to formal penjing. I did not expect this to be a suitable book for bonsai or penjing beginners, but it very much is. That said, it is also a nice book for people who have years of experience applying the arts of bonsai and penjing. There are lots of different styles of trees pictured, and for those who have some bonsai training, it is interesting to see the results of choices many artists are trained to avoid (for example an arrow straight trunk with wildly curving branches). The writing is very accessible and overall the translation is excellent. Regarding the translation; the term "aloof" is used quite frequently in describing literati trees. Initially that seemed like an odd choice to me as an American English speaker, but it really is the best word for describing a tree that is typically solitary, isolated, unique, distant, and remote.

The art of bonsai is widely known in the West: from the Karate Kid to the American Bonsai Association and even local grocery stores, bonsai has become a common sight in the States. But bonsai, the Japanese art of creating miniature trees, actually originated in China, where it's called penjing. Penjing, meaning "tray scenery," is a traditional Chinese art of creating miniature potted landscapes including trees and other plants. Brought from China to Japan in ancient times before spreading to the West, bonsai/penjing is now popular throughout the world. In China, the art of creating miniature landscapes has evolved in several different ways. Literati Style Penjing: Chinese Bonsai Masterworks focuses on a special category of penjing associated with traditional Chinese culture, such as the painting of the literati, or elite scholar-bureaucrats, of imperial China. Like literati ink paintings, this style of penjing has a subtle elegance distinguished by a lone, lean trunk with sparse foliage exhibiting distinct lines and simplicity. The term "literati style penjing" has been widely accepted by the bonsai community and is becoming more common within the bonsai world. It is well suited to melding concepts from Chinese painting, poetry and Zen into a stunning bonsai work, making it of interest to a wide variety of gardening styles. Literati Style Penjing; Chinese Bonsai Masterworks explains the concept of penjing with a literati bent, exploring its rich history and aesthetics, as well as cultivation techniques, and care and maintenance. It includes 12 examples of literati style penjing creations, which incorporate a deep knowledge of the art form together with practical creativity and artistic beauty. Lovers of bonsai will find much to inspire and delight within these pages.

About the Author Zhao Qingquan is a master of the Chinese art of penjing, a Senior Landscape Engineer, an International Bonsai Instructor at Bonsai Clubs International, and an International Consultant for the World Bonsai Friendship Federation. He is currently on the staff of the Penjing Museum of the Slender West Lake Garden. Zhao's passion for penjing began at an early age under the influence of his family, and he later received training under the penjing expert, Professor Xu Xiaobai. In Zhao's four-decade long career, he has focused on the fusion of traditional Chinese culture and contemporary aesthetic sensibilities, and in the 1970s, he pioneered a new form known as the water-and-land penjing. An internationally renowned master, Zhao has attended conferences and given lectures and demonstrations around the world. He has received numerous accolades, and in 2001, his penjing Trident Maples was added to the collection of the US National Arboretum. He is also the author of more than ten monographs.