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## **Zhang Shanzi**

**Zhang Shanzi (1882~1940)**, male, was born in Neijiang, Sichuan, China. Modern famous painter, Zhang Daqian's second brother, master of tiger painting. The young man learned painting from his mother, and he once studied under Li Ruiqing. He loved martial arts. He and his younger brother Zhang Daqian studied Xinyiquan and the 13th Duan of Nei Gong from Xinyiquan master Baoding.

### **Basic Information**

**Chinese name** Zhang Ze

**Nationality:** Chinese

**Nationality:** Han

**Place of birth:** Neijiang, Sichuan

**Date of birth:** 1882

**Date of death:** 1940

**Profession :**Professor of Shanghai Art College

**The representative work** "The Twelve Golden Hairpins"

### **Biography**

**Zhang Shanzi**, named Ze;

**Zhang Shanzi and Zhang Daqian**

The brother of Zhang Daqian, a native of Jiangxi in Sichuan, once studied under Li Ruiqing. In 1917, he went east to Japan. Since 1922, he has served as a consultant to the Ministry of Finance in the Presidential Office and a consultant to the State Council. [1] After Sun Yat-sen's death, he lived in Shanghai as a professor of Shanghai Art School. He devoted himself to painting and achieved outstanding results. He organized a splendid society with Huang BinHong and others, and held art exhibitions in the Nanyang Islands, Singapore and China.

### **Art Chronology**

**At the age of 10**, he entered a private school and studied painting with his mother in his spare time. Later, he entered the Neijiang Normal School and taught at Neijiang Primary School and Neijiang Middle School.

**In 1903**, he travelled eastward to Japan. He first entered the economics department of Meiji University, and then entered the art department of the school because of his hobby of painting.

**In 1905**, the China Alliance was established in Japan and he joined immediately

After returning to China in 1907, he participated in the revolutionary activities of the Tongmenghui. He was a member of the Sichuan Provincial Consultative Bureau. After the Revolution of 1911, he served as a major general of the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the Shu (Sichuan) Army. Later, he was wanted for opposing Yuan Shikai's restoration and proclamation of himself the emperor.

In 1919, he returned to Sichuan and successively served as the governor of the salt farms of Langzhong, Leshan, Pengxi, Suining, Santai and other counties.

In 1924, he was transferred to Beijing successively to consult the Ministry of Finance, and the State Council consulted with Luyu and other officials.

In 1927, he resigned from all positions due to his anger at the corruption in the officialdom. He retired to Shanghai and his eighth brother, Daqian, made a living by selling paintings and calligraphy.

After the outbreak of the Anti-Japanese War in 1937, he went to Wuhan. When he learned that the second cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party had been formed, he was very excited. he immediately created a huge Chinese painting -- Roar China

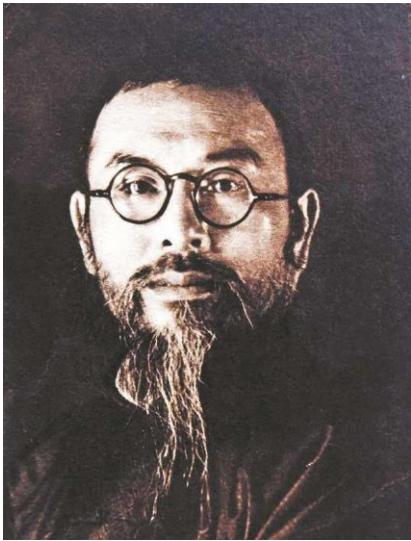
He arrived in Chongqing at the end of 1937 and was hired as a member of the National Government Relief Committee. In 1938, he went to Kunming to bury his head in painting and successively created many excellent works such as Master Xiangao, Su Wu Muyang, Jing Zhong Bao Guo, Wen Tianxiang Righteous Song, etc.

In 1938, he returned to Chongqing to accept the entrustment of the National Government and went abroad to publicize and raise funds.

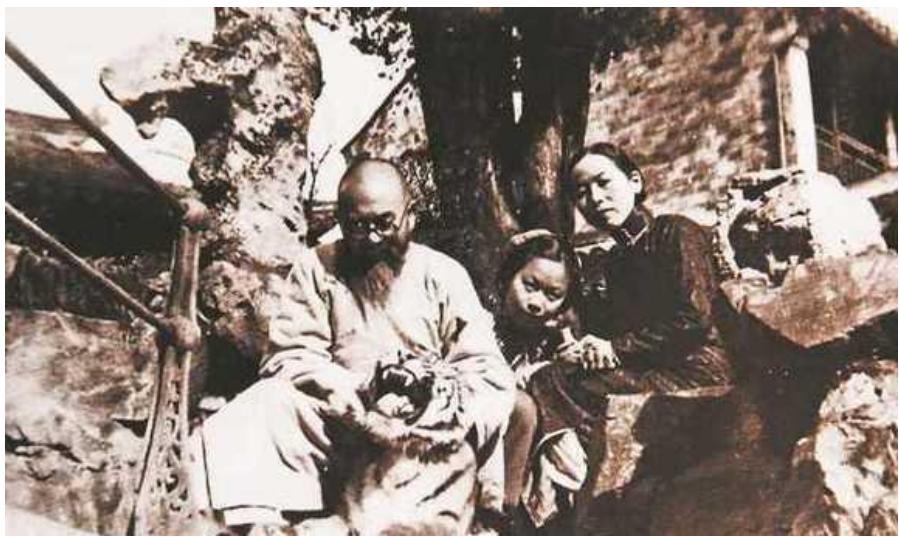
In 1939 and 1940, he held art exhibitions and lectures in France and the United States to introduce the Chinese people's struggle against Japanese aggression. In the past two years, he held more than 100 art exhibitions before and after holding more than 100 art exhibitions. The donations totaled more than 200,000 US dollars, including a personal charity sale of painted tigers. He received more than 100,000 US dollars for his personal tiger paintings. New York's Fordham University (? Translation) specially awarded him an honorary doctor of law degree. Washington Black University, Art Institute of Chicago, Columbia Art Institute and other schools have also hired him as honorary professor.

In September 1940, he returned to China due to illness and was warmly welcomed and highly praised by all sectors of society. After returning to China, he held a report meeting day and night to introduce the situation of the World War of Resistance.

Due to long-term overwork, he died of illness in Gele Mountain, Chongqing on October 20, 1940. Mr. Zhang Shanzi, nicknamed Tiger Chi, was well-known in China, world-renowned and a loyal patriotic painter.



A Strange Person in the History of Chinese Modern Art



Zhang Shanzi Zhang Shanzi's family took a group photo with Aihu Tiger

## A Patriot Against the Japanese Invasion

After the Lugou Bridge Incident on July 7, 1937, Shanghai and Nanjing fell one after another under the Japanese invasion. Zhang Shanzi vowed not to be a slave to the country, and resolutely abandoned his property and collections. He left Suzhou Net Lion Park, went to Langxi, Anhui, and then returned to Chongqing, Sichuan, and then went to Kunming, Yunnan. During the war, the ancient famous calligraphy and paintings that he had collected in his life were almost lost. He once told his friends that as a man, he would forsake his home in response to the country, and his life collections were all abandoned in the Suzhou Net Lion Park. He stated : the first thing today is to save the country from peril. If the country is not protected, what is the use of being rich and owning hundreds of cities. I hate that I am not a warrior, and I cannot fight on the battlefield. Today, I will write my loyalty and anger with my brush. To inspire people with lofty ideals and advocate for colleagues in the domestic art garden.

On the arduous road of retreating westward, his brush never stopped. No matter during the turbulent journey or in the dim light of the inn, Zhang Shanzi painted a lot of tigers and gave them to the soldiers and friends in front of them, encouraging them to carry forward their majesty and fight bravely. The enemy, after arriving in Wuhan, Zhang Shanzi bought a piece of white cloth with a length of 2 feet and a width of 12 feet to hang it on the wall, and conceived to create a huge picture. Roar China. Soon the Japanese army approached Wuhan, and the air raids continued. Zhang Shanzi retreated to Yichang and lived in the third brother Zhang Licheng. At home, he ignored the indiscriminate bombing of the Japanese army, and devoted himself to the creation of a huge Chinese painting. On the day when the painting was about to be completed, the air raid alarm sounded again in the evening. People hid in the air-raid shelter, Zhang Shanzi. Still not moving, he swiped his pen vigorously, pouring hope and anger on the painting. At that time, a pilot happened to come to see the painting. Seeing this scene, he was very excited. The painting is good, wait for me to annihilate the enemy planes. Zhang Shanzi completed this masterpiece in the rumbling sound of explosions, accompanied by the sky-high firelight. Conquering the Japanese invaders, the sun was setting and their breath was dying. He was still writing an inscription on it. That night, he told his friends, "You see the 28 provinces are all roaring. Little Japan has no reason not to be defeated. Later, he stood in front of the painting and asked people to take pictures. Generosity and heroism shows his dignity and personality. Zhang Shanzi, whose name

is Ze, also Shanzi, is a self-named Huchi (crazy for tiger), a native of Neijiang, Sichuan, and the second brother of Master Zhang Daqian. Hu Zhaoxi created many works with tigers as the theme, so he became famous in the painting world, so he called himself a tiger idiot. He painted 12 paintings with various forms of tigers as the theme, and named them as the Twelve Golden Hairpins, which won a high reputation. After the outbreak of the Anti-Japanese War, he resolutely abandoned his property and many collectibles, went to the front line to carry out anti-Japanese propaganda, and created masterpieces such as Tianbao Jiu, China Roaring, Roaring China, etc., to promote the national spirit of defending the home and the country. At the beginning of 1939, he went to France and the United States to hold an exhibition of anti-Japanese donations, which won the admiration of overseas people. The then French President Lebrun called him a representative of modern oriental art. (? Based on timing and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert\\_Lebrun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Lebrun))

#### Postscript

In May 1986, a piece of Zhang Shanzi's double tiger scroll 103.2 x 45.5 cm was auctioned by Sotheby's for HK\$16,000

In 1989, the double tiger scroll with the same size but different pictures sold for HK\$42,000

In 1990, the price of tiger paintings did not rise, and the transaction price of group tigers was HK\$46,200.

On March 27, 1994, at the China Guardian Spring Auction, "the tiger swallowed the sun", setting the highest auction record over the years.

On June 6, 2013, at the auction hosted by Beijing Kuangshi International Auction Co., Ltd., "the Twelve Gold Hairpins" were finally captured by the Long Museum at a record-breaking price of 10.5 million yuan.

#### Self-proclaimed tiger crazy

When the Anti-Japanese War broke out, he painted a group of tigers rushing forward and titled Roaring, China, to express his praise for the victory of the whole nation in the Anti-Japanese War. There are twenty-eight tigers galloping, jumping, and chasing the setting sun. The tiger symbolizes the twenty-eighth provinces of China. The province is mighty, brave and vigorous. The setting sun is like the setting sun of the Japanese invaders, and his breath is dying. He also wrote an inscription on it.

A friend said that when you saw the twenty-eight provinces all roared, little Japan had no reason not to be defeated. Later, he stood in front of the painting and asked someone to take a photo. At the beginning of 1939, he went to France, the United States and other countries to hold more than 100 art exhibitions in two years, and held a charity sale to raise funds to support the War of Resisting the invaders.

Zhang Shanzi self-titled Hu Chi Hu Beard(Crazy for tiger and tiger beard), and people at that time called him Duke Hu. In 1935, the Red Army of the Workers and Peasants was on the Long March. The Kuomintang commander Hao Menglin was transferred to Guizhou to participate in the encirclement and suppression. His troops caught a tiger cub in a cave in the deep mountains of Qiandai, and soon brought it back to the Hankou Office of Appeasement to give it to General Councilor Zhu Bolin. After a long time, the milked tiger became a little tiger, it would be dangerous to play with the children at home every day. Zhu Bolin knew that his old friend Zhang Shanzi was good at drawing tigers, so he sent a telegram to Suzhou and asked if he wanted a tiger. Such telegrams are really funny, but Zhang Shanzi was overjoyed when he received the telegram---- In order to draw tigers well, he

had raised tigers, but it was when he was still Sichuan before. Then his tiger probably ate more meat and produced more phlegm. Unfortunately, this old tiger died. It was a pity for Zhang then. Now that the good news came, he immediately went to Hankou despite illness and returned with the tiger. The rockery cave in the Master of Nets Garden has become the new home for the cub. When he carried the cub through the bustling streets of Suzhou, the audience was amazed. It was a sensation. Regarding Hao Menglin, we can still see his name in the selected works of Mao today, because he died heroically and was a role model for Chinese soldiers. In the battle, General Hao Menglin, who was already the commander of the army, came to the front line as the commander-in-chief of the Central Corps. Unfortunately, he was shot but when he was dying he still shouted to kill the enemy. However, this is a digression to Zhang Tiger's story.

This little tiger caught by Hao Menglin is said to love fresh milk and is very human. Zhang Shanzi gets along with him day and night and is very close to him. He often paints tiger postures. Using a tiger as a metaphor for a beautiful woman is a bit in the sense of Zen, but if she sneezes loudly, sounds like a roar of a tiger. One time, a visitor was surprised by the tiger. In response, Zhang Shanzi tapped it with a folding fan three times on its head. The tiger likely thought that the owner had humiliated him in public and refused to eat for three days. The news spread to Master Yinguang, the abbot of Lingyan Temple, an eminent monk outside the city. Yinguang personally came to see the little tiger at the Nets Garden. When he saw Yinguang, the tiger immediately knocked his head to the ground and burst into tears. Despite praying for it, the tiger still died three days later. Zhang Shanzi was so saddened that he built a tomb and a monument for the tiger. In 1982, Zhang Daqian was still concerned about this event overseas, he wrote an epitaph -- the tomb of tiger, which was raised by my Brother, and sent it back to Suzhou. Today, the handwriting has been engraved into a stele and placed at the place where the tiger bones were buried.

Zhang Shanzi is good at painting beasts, landscapes and flowers. The tigers foreheads in his paintings are quite different from those painted by the predecessors. The tiger in previous paintings are mostly speculation and focus on the expression of the tiger's majesty. Zhang's tiger is mighty, yet full of humanity, contains a kind of warmth, and at the same time has an accurate structure. The characteristics of the South China tiger are obviously expressed. According to legend, the South China tiger not only rarely hurts people, but also moves and lives to avoid people. Zhang Shanzi raises it in his garden and observes every move of the tiger. He has a very good understanding of the habits of the tiger, so he can deeply grasp the dynamic of the tiger without losing it like in other people's painting. Many representative works of his passing on are treasured in the Sichuan Provincial Museum.

[Zhang Shanzi's animal and plant paintings \(40 photos\)](#)

[Zhang Shanzi's Landscape Paintings \(20\)](#)

## Auction record

In May 1986, the double tiger axis 103.2×45.5 cm was sold for HK\$16,000 at Sotheby's auction

In 1989, the same size and different picture of the double tiger scroll were auctioned for 42,000 Hong Kong dollars.

In 1990, the transaction price of the group of tigers was HK\$46,200, and the price of the tigers was HK\$22,000.

March 27, 1994 China Guardian's Spring Auction set a record for the highest auction in history.

Zhang Shanzi's works entered the market very early. During the Republic of China, Zhang Shanzi's paintings were very popular and popular in the market, especially Zhang Shanzi's tiger, which attracted competitive buyers at home and abroad. In the 1980s, Zhang Shanzi's works began to enter overseas. Auction market, each work is between HK\$10,000 and HK\$40,000

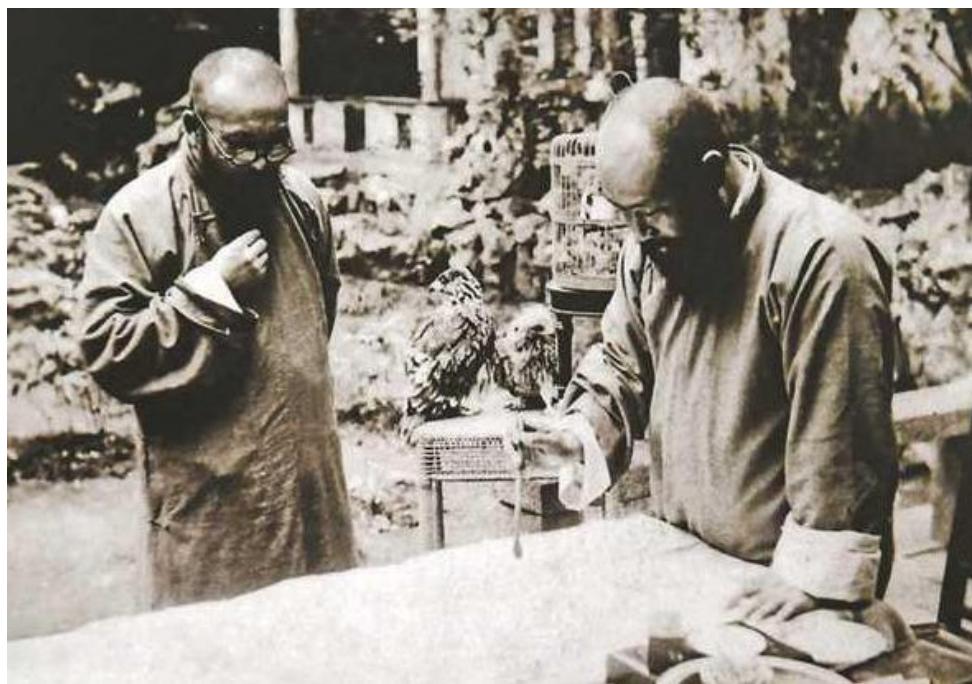
By the end of the 1980s, his large-scale boutique products began to pass the 100,000-yuan mark. For example, in 1989, his Luming Youyou figure was sold at a Sotheby's auction for 110,000 Hong Kong dollars.

In the 1990s, with the rise of domestic art auctions, Zhang Shanzi's works frequently appeared on the market. Generally, a four-foot tiger is about 40,000 yuan, and the price is still about 5,000 yuan per square foot. For other animals paintings, the price was slightly lower.

In recent years, Zhang Shanzi's works have been quite favored by collectors. In 1997, China Guardian once launched Zhang Shanzi's six-screen strip, which was enthusiastically sought after by collectors at home and abroad, and finally sold for 451,000 yuan.

In 2001, several masterpieces by Zhang Shanzi appeared at auction. For example, Shanghai Jinghua Company launched two works by Zhang Shanzi. Among them, the landscape painting Chongfeng Songqing was estimated at 580,000 yuan. The auction started from 30,000 yuan and after dozens of rounds of competition the transaction was sold for 352,000 yuan, and another tiger painting, Lin □ Hu Xiao, was sold for 85,000 yuan.

In the 2005 Duoyunxuan auction, Zhang Shanzi's pine and bamboo scrolls written in 1936 were sold for 792,000 yuan.



Zhang Shanzi (Left) & Zhang Daqian (Right) in collaboration