

# Lake Country Life

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## Physicist by day, artist by night

ARTIST

By BOBBI GAGE  
HIGHLAND LAKES NEWSPAPERS

Typically, scientists do things by the book. After all, the scientific method holds them accountable. On the flip side stands an artist, carefree, adventurous, and expressive. When the two collide to form one, the result is artist-physicist Qiang (pronounced Chong) Huang.



Huang, who called China home until 1985, enjoyed art when he was a young boy. His uncle, a professional painter and art educator influenced him. That interest stayed with him, even as he made the journey to the West.

"I have liked to draw since I was in day-care," he said. "I have kept drawing as a hobby all my life."

Huang came to the United States just as China opened its door to the world, he said. "The economical reform has just started. The country was very poor but businesses with western countries in technology have been quite active. As a physicist, I got many chances to communicate with western scientists and engineers and created my opportunity of entering into a U.S. university."

Huang, having only started painting professionally about nine years ago, considers art a passion, a dream come true and a release from the rest of the world. It all started when he and his family stared at the bare walls in their home. The artwork he could afford, he didn't like, and as occasion would have it, the art that did pique his interest was obviously not affordable.

"I thought, 'Why don't I do it myself?' It was wonderful motivation," he said.

Huang, who earned a PhD in physics, is an optical engineer by day, and spends his evenings

and weekends with a paintbrush, playing with the light. His preferred medium is oil on canvas and he mostly paints still-life images.

When it comes to his canvas, Huang prefers primed and stretched canvas. "I also use canvas panels from RayMar or loose canvas. I do not use paper backed canvas panels. They are too absorptive."

His scientific background has influenced his art. As an artist, the Cedar Park resident is sensitive about the lighting. "As an optical engineer I deal with light. I don't do a portrait of an apple; the apple is a manipulator of the light. My painting and my engineering unify because of light. Light is my main subject, paintings are a portrait of light."

When he first started painting, Huang said he focused on and mostly preferred painting the figure and portraits. Although he still enjoys that element of art, he does work as an engineer and doesn't have as much time to dedicate to that. For now, still life is good for his personal situation.

"(With still-life) I can control my lighting," he explained. "I combine by scientific background with art. With (my) art, I am very sensitive about the light."

Huang's work is on display at the Riverbend Fine Art Gallery in Marble Falls, as well as Whistle Pik Galleries in Fredericksburg, Galerie Kornye West in Fort Worth, and FountainSide Fine Art Gallery in Wilmington, N.C.

STAFF PHOTO BY BOBBI GAGE

Qiang Huang showed in Riverbend Fine Art's third annual "Pride of Place" exhibit recently. Huang stands next to his pieces, "Apple in Study" (top) and "Reflections."