



Chinese Culture

By: Annie McDermott



Chinese culture is much different than many other cultures because China is about 5,000 years old, which makes the culture so rich. A part of the Chinese culture is religion. Most Chinese people are Buddhist and the other two popular religions are Taoism and Confucianism. Some other religions are Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Shinto and Catholicism.

Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world. To a lot of people, Buddhism is more than just a religion its mostly a philosophy, which means to live love and wisdom. There are a lot of Buddhist temples in China, and Buddha's all over the place! You might have seen the laughing Buddha. The laughing Buddha symbolizes loving or the friendly one. Mostly Buddhism is about a peaceful life.

The color red is very important part of the Chinese culture; it represents happiness and good luck. They use red everywhere: Holidays, weddings, Chinese New Year, and on their flag. The color red is not allowed at funerals because it represents happiness. On holidays it's a Chinese tradition to give out little red envelopes with money in it.

Lastly, the arts in Chinese culture are very important too, the arts include: Calligraphy, writing, poetry, books, music, dancing, puppet shows, theater and opera. The Beijing Opera is very famous. Every little thing in the arts symbolizes a lot of things. Calligraphy is drawn with a paintbrush, because a brush contains animal hair (in china), which can more freely on the paper. Calligraphy is both words and paintings.

The most popular interments in china are: Lute, Zither, harp and the Erhu. These are all different families of the interments.

Chinese Puppet Shows were very popular in the old days and they were full with the arts, the puppets were made by hand in the puppet shows there was: Music, stories and singing. They were preformed on the streets for money. They were preformed by puppet troupes and most modern Chinese plays and theater are based on these old puppet shows.

Chinese culture is very different than other cultures.



This might look like the dragon dance, but no, still the dragon dance is popular on Chinese New year, this is the lion dance, a dance that is also very common on Chinese New year. This picture was taken at Pig Haven, a chinese restaurant that celebrates chinese new year, they put on dances and activities to do and its very fun. Me and my friend Jaye went to this chinese restaurant with out parents and it was so much fun, we could get up and dance and participate with the dancers and have live entertainment while you eat. It's really fun!



This a chinese out-fit that is common to wear in China, this out-fit is made out of silk and hand made.

I used to wear this when I was little. People in China still wear these clothes.

If you look at the out-fit you will see the patterns on the clothes. The pattern's are common on chinese clothes. I love the patterns on the clothes, I loved wearing this out-fit when i was little!



This Chinese hat has a braid in the back. When I was little I would wear this hat with a green shirt and pants.

This chinese hat only has two colors, black and red, black has tow meanings, the two meanings for black is,honesty and death and the second meaning is misfortune. There is one meaning to red that i know, happiness and good luck. I think on the hat black means honesty and death, like the bad sides of life, but the red side to the happier side of live, saying good luck and happiness, the good side of life, not the bitter side that the wrong path could lead you to.



Dragons symbolizes good fortune, and power. It's a sign of the Zodiac and it is my sign. If you were born in the 2000's your sign is the dragon.



WHEN MY MOM AND ME WERE IN CHINATOWN TAKING THESE PICTURES WE STOPPED AT THIS SEAFOOD MARKET AND I REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THE FOOD IN CHINA (OR CHINATOWN) IS IMPORTANT TO THEIR CULTURE. I REALLY WAS AMAZED HOW THEY ORGANIZED THE MARKET. I NEVER ATE ANYTHING FROM ONE OF THESE MARKETS BUT I REALLY WANT TO TRY, SEEING EVERYONE BUYING FRESH FOOD FROM THE MARKET MAKES ME HUNGRY!



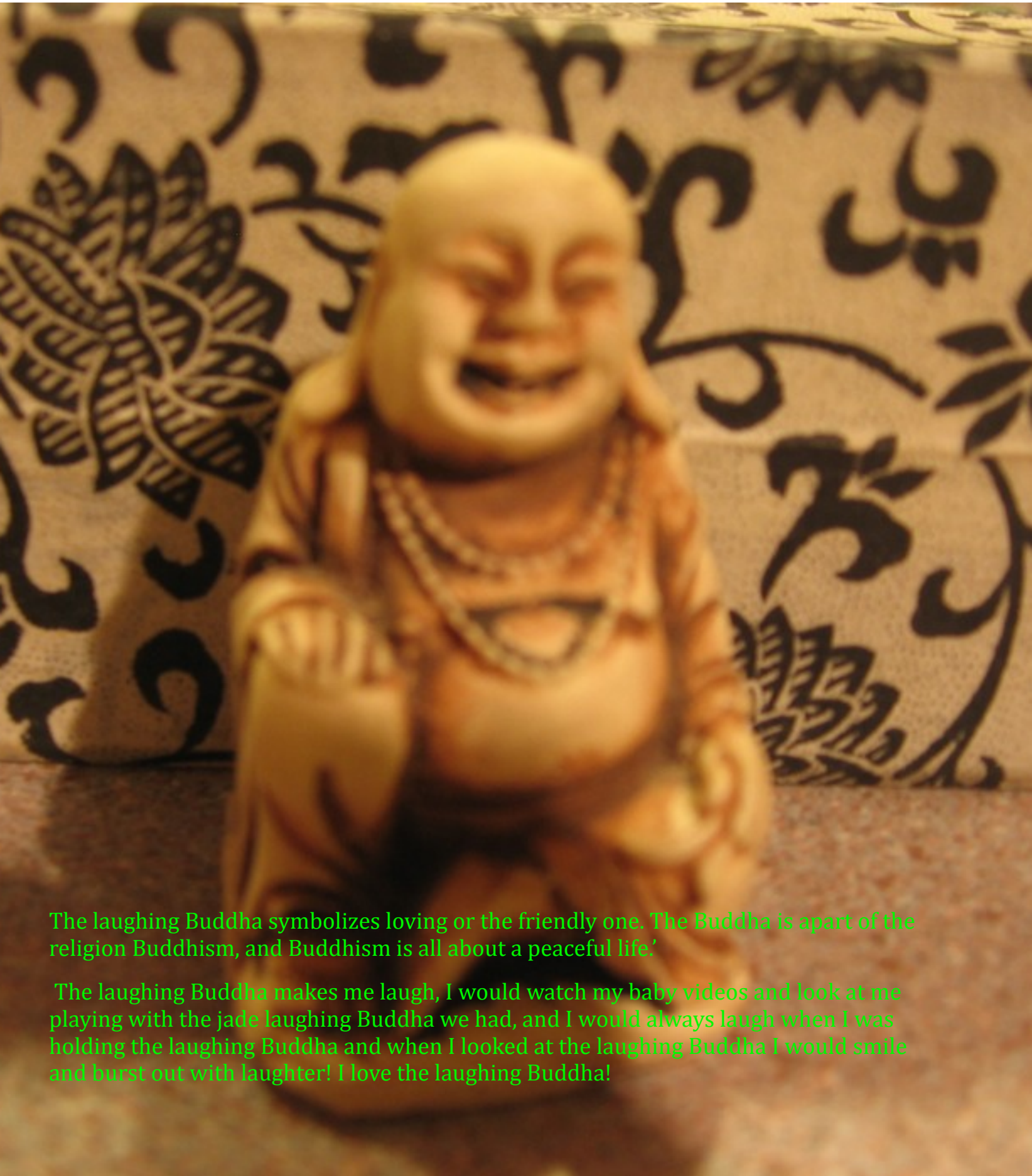
Red lanterns are very common to find in Chinatown, and these lanterns have gold Chinese characters. Although not all Chinese Lanterns are just red, some are very colorful! Of course there is usually there is red with the other colors too. All the different colors have a different meaning. Like yellow and gold share the same meaning, but yellow and gold has two meanings, you use which one depending on the context. The two meanings are: the first emperor, and earth and mourning. I love seeing all the different colors on lanterns. I love the red ones! On Chinese New Year I see a lot of people holding up lanterns all colorful and I think its so pretty! They really stand out to me when i see them in stores, even when people are holding them!



This is a traditional dress and a traditional vest chinese girls, boys, women and men wore every day but not the same clothes everyday. (For some people, some people wear the same clothes everyday) Like we wear jeans, dresses, t-shirts, shorts, jackets and more, this is what chinese people would wear. On chinese new year I wore the black and red dress on chinese new year, it felt just like a dress I usually would wear, and i think it's so pretty! The vest my mom would wear in China and Chinatown, it looks great with a dress and even just a t-shirt!



Chopsticks were used in china over 5,000 years about how long china existed; chopsticks are mostly made from bamboo or wood. But the royal family used gold chopsticks. I could never use chopsticks. When I went to a Chinese restaurant and they give you chopsticks, for dumplings I would use one chopstick and I would stab the chopstick in the dumpling and eat it like that! It was so much fun, my friend would look at me like I'm crazy, but I didn't mind I found it funny to eat with one chopstick! Also it's the easy way how to eat dumplings, last time I tried to eat with two chopsticks, i dropped the dumpling in the soy sauce! I rather eat with one chopstick and have people think I'm weird that not get to eat yummy dumplings!

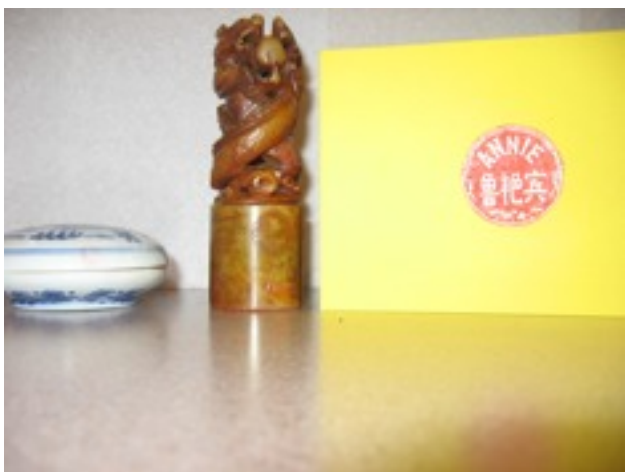


The laughing Buddha symbolizes loving or the friendly one. The Buddha is apart of the religion Buddhism, and Buddhism is all about a peaceful life.'

The laughing Buddha makes me laugh, I would watch my baby videos and look at me playing with the jade laughing Buddha we had, and I would always laugh when I was holding the laughing Buddha and when I looked at the laughing Buddha I would smile and burst out with laughter! I love the laughing Buddha!



The chop is made out of three things, ink, the ink stamp and finally a piece of paper to put the stamp and all of this creates the chop. When people in china make poetry, art and writing, they would sign there piece with the chop because that's a way how people let other people know that they wrote or made it and the chop has their name on it. I really want to try it one day, it looks very fun, my mom did it already. Soon it'll be my turn!!!





Their are the four treasures of study and the four treasures are, a brush, ink stick, paper and a ink stone and this is how people in china would write and for the art in china, the art of calligraphy in China is well known, and calligraphy in china schools were a big subject.

I always wanted to write with the four treasures, but its very hard, it takes a long time to become a expert at calligraphy. Although if you're up for it, you'll probably get the hang of it and be a master at calligraphy! It'll just take patients, hard work and some courage. Thats all it takes!



Chinese fans used to be a ways people blocked the sun away and how people fanned there self, and very big and round. But then they turned into works of art and symbolism, props for many things like theaters and dance, romantic gifts too, and sometimes memorials of the dead.

Although now, a lot of people us it to fan their self's on hot days. I use fans at the beach and outside, so thats some ways we still keep chinese culture alive and growing. Fans are also sill used for theater props and works of art.



This plate is a smooth plate with pop-out flowers on them, this plate is from China. This plate was hand made and the plate came in a red silk box. People don't usually eat off this type of plate because of the pop-out flowers. This plate was painted on with a brush.

I love this plate because it's so detailed and pretty. it makes me wonder how long do people work on one plate? Also how do they make it that pretty? It came in a silk box that I love to look at. This plate came with the stand so its like a prop of something to look at and not for eating. But i do want to eat on it!



This is a stamp with my name on it. My birth name in Chinese and on the top my real name. This is from the chop (the chop is the stamp and the ink stone.) In china people would sign their name on there art work and more with this sign. Not my name, there name but not in english, maybe if a Chinese person did their art work in the USA, maybe there would be their name in english on top.