



The SPACE Art Gallery

妹 Presents 妹
妹 “*mei mei*” 妹
妹 by 妹
妹 Richard Bowen 妹

for the benefit of



ONE SKY

for all children



The SPACE Art Gallery

--- 诚浩 Pure Honesty 诚浩 --- 丁月 Little Moon 丁月 --- 和晨 Peaceful Morning Glow 和晨 --- 秋庆 Autumn Celebration 秋庆 ---

mei mei

妹妹

Richard Bowen



ONE SKY

for all children

There is an ancient Chinese legend that describes an invisible red thread joining those who are destined to connect, regardless of time, place, or circumstance. For photographer Richard Bowen, that thread



Village Billboard "These are new times. Girls are as good as boys" Copyright Bowen 2000

led him to China's state-run welfare institutions, at a time when there were thousands of children, primarily girls, growing up without families to take care of them. *mei mei* (circa 2000) presents a poignant glimpse of just a few of these remarkable children. Composed against neutral backgrounds, these portraits capture the girls' inner lives, away from their often bleak surroundings. The images show an almost endless range of expressions: small faces filled with longing and hope, joy and sadness, humor and mischief, defiance and despair. Through the camera's eye, we see these young vulnerable children as individuals with vital, distinct, and beautiful personalities that they rarely have the chance to express. Once each unique human being comes into focus, the connection is made, and the red thread becomes visible. And once seen, the bond can never be broken.

"This was this totally unique period of history -- creating the largest all-female diaspora ever"

Richard Bowen 2021

All the girls who appear in this show resided within China's social welfare system circa 2000. Nearly all the girls here spent their childhoods in an institute, a lucky few have been adopted in China or abroad. When Richard photographed the girls, they were either actively attending, or about to begin attending, Half the Sky programs (now OneSky). Their names, listed around the edge of these banners in English and Mandarin, were given by welfare staff and are randomly presented to protect each young lady's privacy.



Rollerbaby. Copyright Bowen 2000

--- 夏虹 Summer Rainbow 夏虹 --- 春恬 Idyllic Spring 春恬 --- 和香 Peaceful Fragrance 和香 --- 乐乐 Happy Joy 乐乐 ---

永兰 Everlasting Orchid 永兰 --- 秋莲 Autumn Lotus 秋莲 --- 站旗 Standing Victory 站旗 --- 银翠 Silver Emerald 银翠 --- 永诺 Everlasting Promises 永诺

梦燕 Dreaming Swallow 梦燕 --- 文柳 Gentle Willow 文柳 --- 夏荣 Summer Flourish 夏荣 --- 春香 Spring Fragrance 春香 --- 庆丰 Magnificent Celebration 庆丰 --- 仁海 Merciful Sea 仁海

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mei mei 63
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 15
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 23
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 25
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 55
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 93
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 107
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 108
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 31
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed

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--- 永兰 Everlasting Orchid 永兰 --- 秋莲 Autumn Lotus 秋莲 --- 站凯 Standing Victory 站凯 --- 丽传 Beautiful Legend 丽传 ---

春恬 Jadyfic Spring 春恬 --- 夏虹 Summer Rainbow 夏虹 --- 秋庆 Autumn Celebration 秋庆 --- 和晨 Peaceful Morning Glow 和晨 --- 丁月 Lilac Moon 丁月 --- 纯洁 Pure Honesty 纯洁 ---

和香 Peaceful Fragrance 和香 --- 乐乐 Happy Joy 乐乐 --- 银翠 Silver Emerald 银翠 --- 永诺 Everlasting Promises 永诺 --- 梦燕 Dreaming Swallow 梦燕 --- 文柳 Gentle Willow 文柳

mei mei Richard Bowen

妹妹



Veteran Hollywood cameraman Richard Bowen began his career as a visual storyteller soon after graduating from university. While backpacking around Europe in the 1970s and taking photographs, he stumbled onto his first movie set, Bernardo Bertolucci's *1900*. He instantly fell in love with film, returned to the US to complete graduate studies in filmmaking, and became a cinematographer.

Richard went on to build a successful 40-year career in more than 20 feature films and hundreds of TV commercials. His work appears in films by noted directors such as Sydney Pollack (*Havana*), Clint Eastwood (*Flags of Our Fathers*), Lawrence Kasdan (*Wyatt Earp*), and Tim Burton (*Mars Attacks!*). He also collaborated with his wife,

screenwriter/director Jenny Bowen, on three independent productions: *Street Music*, *The Wizard of Loneliness* and *In Quiet Night*.

In 1998, the Bowens' experience adopting their first of two daughters from China helped inspire another collaboration: the creation of the nonprofit foundation Half the Sky (now known as OneSky for all children). They were thrilled with the turnaround their love could make for one small child – and determined to make a difference for all the little ones then languishing in China's orphanages. Today, OneSky is a global NGO that has transformed the lives of over 200,000 marginalized children and helped a nation re-imagine its entire child welfare system.

Richard's OneSky work returned him to his still photography roots. Travelling across China to different orphanages, he began to document the children he met "and let them speak to the world." These are the *mei mei* ("Little Sister") photographs you see here.

While the Bowens lived in China in 2004-2009, Richard made a discovery. The Cinderella story many of us associate with Disney or Grimm's fairy tales had, in fact, originated in China in 768 AD. To share this original story with the world, Richard wrote, directed, and produced a new independent feature film: *Cinderella Moon* (2012). He shot the film entirely in China.

For Richard, *Cinderella Moon* and *mei mei* are inextricably connected. In different ways, both the film and the book tell the same story: girls are as valuable as boys and deserve the same chances in this world.

This show you are now viewing has been in the works since February 2019, delayed numerous times due to COVID-19. As he was finalizing the preparation and approving the final physical proofs, Richard suddenly passed away on December 25, 2021.

This show not only recognizes Richard's powerful work, but also the enduring legacy he leaves as OneSky continues to support the needs of vulnerable children around the world.

--- 夏荣 Summer Flourish 夏荣 --- 春香 Spring Fragrance 春香 --- 仁海 Merciful Sea 仁海 --- 庆华 Magnificent Celebration 庆华 ---

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mei mei 50
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 111
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 22
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 72
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 123
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
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\$450.00 framed



mei mei 127
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
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mei mei 16
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
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mei mei 31
Limited Edition Print
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mei mei 117
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mei mei

Richard Bowen

妹妹



ONE SKY
for all children

OneSky trains communities and caregivers to see the potential in our world's most vulnerable young children



Our work began over two decades ago in China where we started with the simple premise of putting a loving adult in the life of every child living in a welfare institution. Through a ground-breaking partnership with the Chinese government, we eventually launched a program to train every child welfare worker in all 31 provinces across the country. And, in time, our training program expanded to help the caregivers of children left-behind in rural Chinese villages when their parents migrated for work. Today, OneSky also trains caregivers in Vietnam's industrial zones, Mongolia's ger districts, and in the most vulnerable neighborhoods in the Hong Kong SAR.



Though our programs have grown dramatically over the last two decades, our focus is still the same as it was when Jenny and Richard Bowen started our organization. We train caregivers to provide responsive care and early education while helping communities create safe and nurturing learning environments so that young children can thrive. In every place we work, we partner with governments in order to increase our impact for the children.

DONATE NOW



SINCE 1998, ACROSS
CHINA, VIETNAM AND MONGOLIA, **ONESKY** HAS

TRAINED OVER
75,000 CAREGIVERS

IMPACTING OVER
274,000 CHILDREN'S LIVES

--- 诚洁 Pure Honesty 诚洁 --- 丁月 Lilac Moon 丁月 --- 和晨 Peaceful Morning Glow 和晨 --- 秋庆 Autumn Celebration 秋庆 ---

梦燕 Dreaming Swallow 梦燕 --- 文雅 Gentle Willow 文雅

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mei mei 59
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mei mei 125
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20" x 20"
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\$450.00 framed



mei mei 48
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 121
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
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\$450.00 framed



mei mei 90
Limited Edition Print
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\$450.00 framed



mei mei 99
Limited Edition Print
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mei mei 133
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 83
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed



mei mei 131
Limited Edition Print
20" x 20"
\$250.00 unframed
\$450.00 framed

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Purchase 2 or more *mei mei* prints and select one of the following books as a thank you gift.

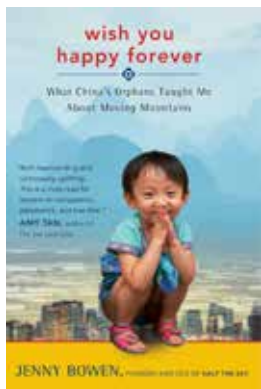
***mei mei (little sister): Portraits from a Chinese Orphanage* by Richard Bowen**

“As I look into the eyes of the children in this book, I see from them a mother’s perspective. I feel the presence of my own daughters, who spent part of their early years in Chinese orphanages. The girls who remain in these institutions may be a world away, but for families like mine who are blessed with adopted children from China, they are as close to our hearts. Were it not for a twist of fate any of our daughter might still be there... The girls gazing into the camera are braver than children should have to be. And yet their spirits peek through - a shy smile, an impish grin, a sturdy stance. What a difference a little encouragement could make.” *by Karin Evans*



So through the eyes love attains the heart: For the eyes are the scouts of the heart. ~ Guiraut de Borneilh (ca. 1138-1200)

***Wish You Happy Forever* by Jenny Bowen**



IN THE SUMMER OF 1998, Jenny Bowen looked out her kitchen window onto her garden, and her life changed forever. Her three-year-old daughter Maya, whom she and her husband had adopted a month earlier from an orphanage in China, had transformed from a vacant-eyed, sickly little girl into a joyous being thriving in an environment where she knew she was loved. Watching her daughter play, Bowen was overcome with the desire to help the orphaned children she couldn’t bring home. And that’s when Half the Sky Foundation (now OneSky) was born. *Wish You Happy Forever* tells the story of China’s momentous progress in it’s treatment of orphaned and abandoned children. When Bowen began Half the Sky in 1998 determined to bring a caring adult

into the life of every orphaned child, it seemed impossible that China would allow a foreigner to work inside government orphanages, let alone try to bring meaningful change. Inevitably, the pathway to collaboration was fraught with challenges: Bowen had to find ways to lead her organization past closed doors and naysayers, bureaucratic roadblocks and reluctant government officials, as well as natural disasters and flustered board members, to realize her vision for a loving, more nurturing approach to child welfare in China. But despite the oceans and ideas that divide us, in the end, all of us want only good for our children. Now the Chinese government not only trusts but partners with OneSky to make life better for the children in its care.

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The SPACE Art Gallery
presents

Dim Sum: Little Bits of Art

A curated collection of modern original jewelry and gifts by some of the world's most talented artisans. Every item is handmade. You can find gifts for any occasion, including casual and formal jewelry, day and evening bags, hand blown glass vases, functional pottery, inlaid wooden boxes, leather money clips, Mazel Tov gifts, and much more.



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Also Available at The **SPACE** Art Gallery

JS Cela - *InterPlay*



JD Dragan
Modern Day Classics



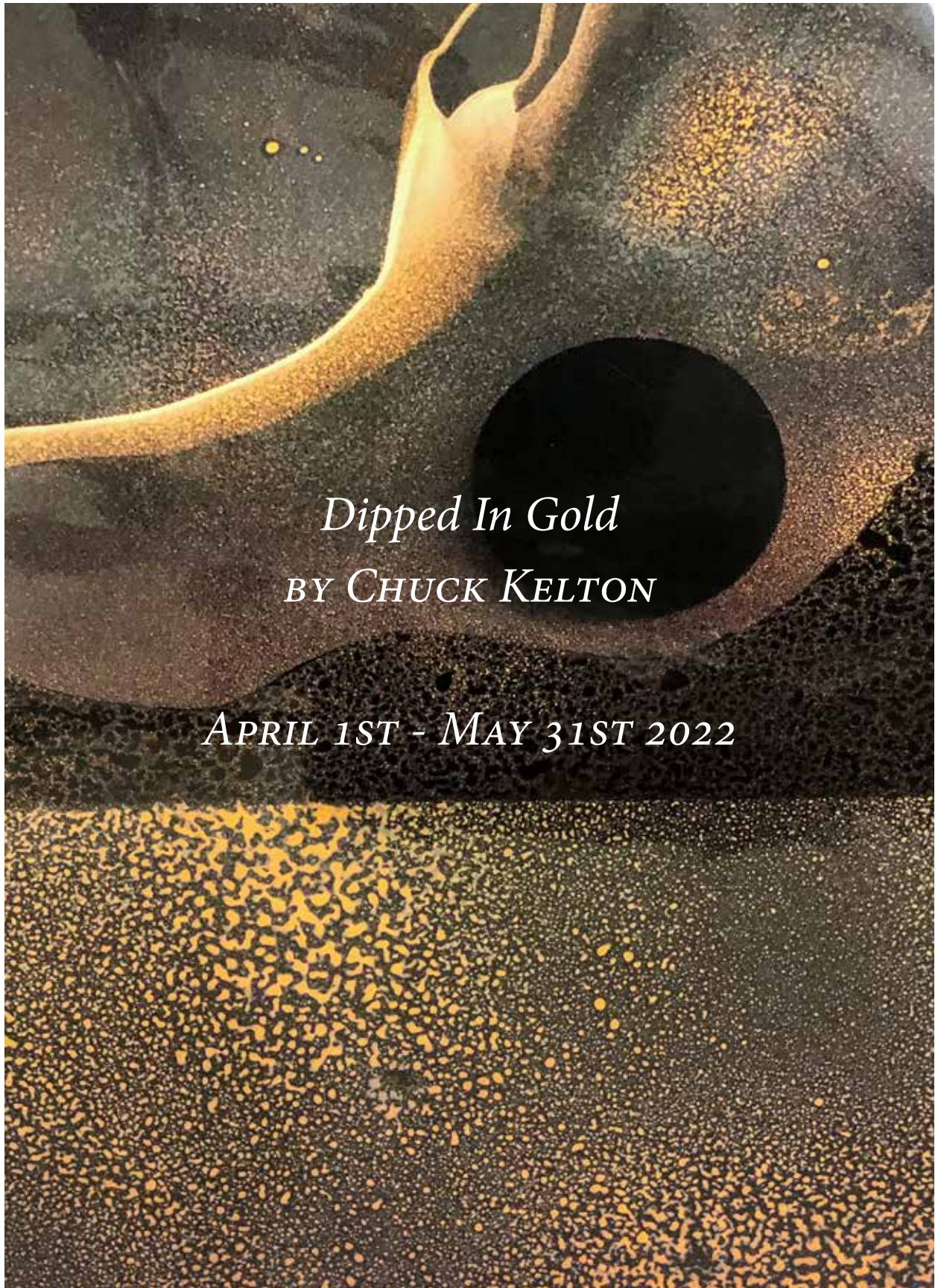
Christopher Brown
A Splash of Color



Robert Carter
Femme Noire



The SPACE Art Gallery



Dipped In Gold
BY CHUCK KELTON

APRIL 1ST - MAY 31ST 2022

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The SPACE Art Gallery

The SPACE art gallery, Philadelphia, established 2018, specializes in Fine Art Photography and modern original jewelry and gifts. The physical area is impeccably designed, with a bespoke jigsaw hardwood floor, a viewing bench and natural lighting. In the curated collection of functional arts, the pieces are handmade by artisans across the country. The materials range from wood to glass and from silver to resin in a wide variety of price-points. The photography captures realistic and artistic natural and manmade images from small to large in a variety of developmental processes and sizes. Stop in during our open hours, request an appointment, or join us for a special event to shop, sit and enjoy the surroundings.

749 S. 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147
Wed - Fri 5-8pm, Sat 10-4 and by appointment
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info@thespacephiladelphia.com



The SPACE Art Gallery - Where Fine Art Photography Meets Modern Original Jewelry



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