

Kristina Ling

Kristina Ling has enjoyed a varied life in Hong Kong, China and the US. As a child, she experienced the Cultural Revolution chasing butterflies. Coming to Hong Kong she had to work hard to catch up academically, and later achieved a BA degree in Fine Art from Wellesley University. She has felt called in life as an artist, a sculptor in particular. She has also enjoyed success as a graphic designer and teacher. She now makes in her home in Beijing.

Kristina and I became friends in 1992 in Hong Kong. Over the years, our friendship has deepened. She has opened my eyes to the Chinese world view, and indeed embodies many of the great Chinese virtues: 仁 *rén*, benevolence, human-kindness; 義 *yì*, uprightness; 信 *xìn*, trustworthiness. Kristina does this through sharing her excellent cooking, her warm hospitality and her loyal friendship.

While we were living in Sydney, Australia, Kristina joined me in a month-long program for English language teaching. The Cambridge University English Language Teaching for Adults class program was rigorous and exacting. We both received our CELTA certificates at the end of the term. The program emphasized the use of target language only, methods to help students take responsibility for their own learning, and reduction of teacher's dominating the classroom, ie student-centered learning. Using language with partners and small groups in games and student activities is the means to this end. We have found that these methods are easily applied to the teaching of Chinese.

In 2012, Kristina joined me in Washington, DC to attend the Asia Society, Initiatives in Chinese Language conference. Here, innovative teaching methods, new total immersion programs and the world-wide impact of growing interest in Chinese language learning were explored.

Kristina Ling's interests and accomplishments span three continents. Her friendship builds bridges across many nations!