

Phil Akashi Honors Nelson Mandela's Birthday With Symbolic Mural (PHOTOS)

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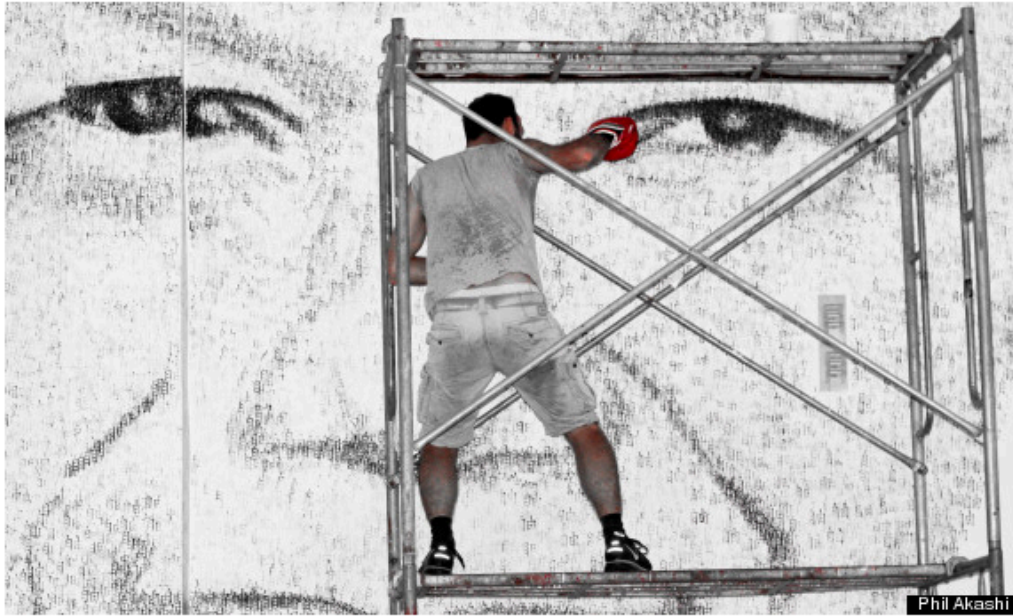
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Shanghai-based [Phil Akashi](#) artist has a special gift for Nelson Mandela's 95th birthday, a monumental portrait made from 27,000 boxing punches.

The artist attached a seal embedded with the Chinese characters "自由" (meaning "freedom") to a boxing glove, and imprinted Mandela's face into a mural with 27,000 punches.

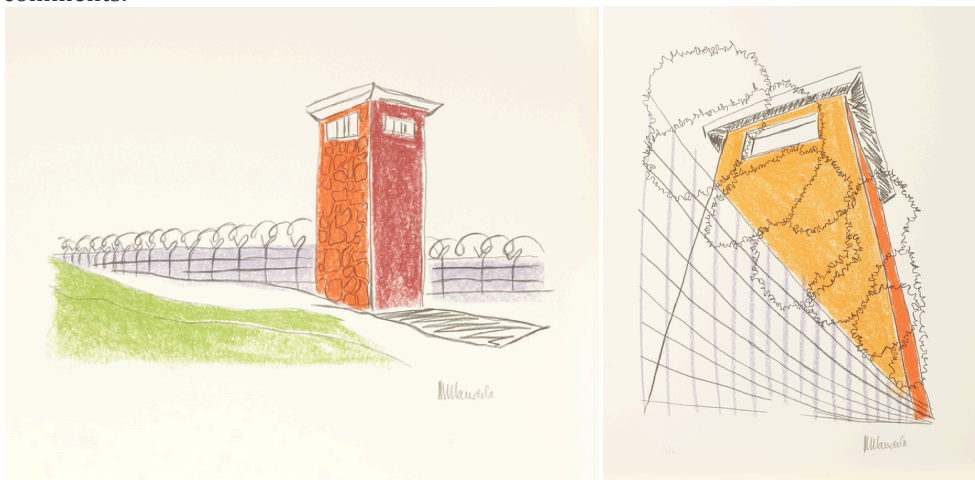


The seal, dipped in black Cinnabar paste, was chosen to honor Mandela's struggle against the apartheid.

"This artwork exemplifies Nelson Mandela's 27 years of incarceration, but also symbolize his lifelong brave stand for freedom and equality. He sacrificed his own freedom to fight for the freedom of others, and therefore represents a fantastic source of inspiration for the entire world," [Akashi says on his website](#).

This symbolic and powerful mural now resides in the Shanghai Graffiti Park. Mandela was not only a worldwide symbol of peace, but also an extraordinary artist. Pulling inspiration from his painful 27 years behind bars and several visits to the prison on Robben Island, Mandela began a series of 20 drawings reflecting his personal struggle and triumph over apartheid.

Check out Mandela's inspirational works below and let us know your thoughts in the comments.



Mandela's Walk & The Guard Tower, image courtesy of "artsation.com"

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/18/nelson-mandela-mural_n_3618832.html

Posted: 12/06/13 EST | Updated: 01/25/14 EST

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Yesterday the world lost a courageous leader, an inspirational activist and a moral compass. Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa and the man who led its emancipation movement, passed away at 95 years old. "He achieved more than could be expected of any man, and today he's gone home," President Obama said in an official statement. "And we've lost one of the most influential and courageous and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time with on this earth." In honor of the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, we've collected 10 artworks that depict his unshakeable strength and heart. He will be dearly missed.

2. This portrait made with a boxing glove in Shanghai.



This photo shows Shanghai-based, 34-year-old Belgian artist Phil Akashi sitting in front of his portrait of South African peace icon and former boxer Nelson Mandela, which he forged by pounding the wall 27,000 times with a boxing glove which bore the Chinese character for 'freedom', in Shanghai. (Getty)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/06/nelson-mandela-art_n_4397930.html

Artist Punches Wall 27,000 Times In Honor Of Nelson Mandela

GOOD | Posted: 07/12/2013 4:14 pm EDT | Updated: 07/12/2013 4:14 pm EDT



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Art and boxing don't often intersect. But Belgian-born Shanghai-based artist Phil Akashi married these two subjects when he created a stunning tribute to Nelson Mandela—using boxing gloves and traditional Chinese ink paste. By punching a wall 27,000 times with the characters 自由/"Freedom," the artist produced this homage to Mandela, who remains hospitalized in critical condition.

Read the whole story at GOOD

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/12/artist-punches-wall-in-honor-of-nelson-mandela_n_3588367.html

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3. Shanghai: "Tribute to Mandela" by Phil Akashi



Phil Akashi "Tribute to Mandela" in Shanghai, China -- Photos by Phil Akashi

In the Shanghai Graffiti Park (No. 709 Lingshi Road, inside the Electric Industrial Park), Belgian-born Shanghai-based artist Phil Akashi has created a mural of Nelson Mandela using a boxing glove to which he attached a seal engraved with the Chinese characters for "freedom." After dipping the glove in black cinnabar paste, Akashi punched the wall 27,000 times to print a monumental portrait, called "Tribute to Mandela." Inspired by Mandela's lifelong stand for freedom and equality, Akashi's seal painting can be considered a way to promote democracy through art in politically restrictive China.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/artinfo/must-see-public-art_b_4124749.html