

Beijing Handscroll

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Hand scrolls are not suitable for public exhibition, but they are very suitable for private viewing and appreciation: one can scroll it open slowly and enjoy every detail. The most famous hand scroll in history is obviously *Qingming Festival Along the River*. This long scroll of 25 cm in width and 529 cm in length depicts a city in a detailed and vivid manner. No hand scrolls can surpass this achievement.

There is no way that we can use this way of observation and depiction nowadays to represent a city; we don't have that kind of scrutiny and patience anymore. Maybe it is because we have other new media and new possibilities; these possibilities include photographs, videos and computers. If I take a picture with a special round-shot camera, then I can get an extremely long image; after computer software processing and mounting, a scroll is made. This way I can have all the fun of enjoying hand scrolls again. This kind of hand scroll is obviously very different from traditional hand scrolls. It is not a macro overlooking view, yet it is very truthful and meticulous; it is not as concise and embracing that one scene can represent many aspects of our lives, but it is able to cover all aspects that at least 100 scenes can represent 1 perspective. Therefore, I'm determined to make a vast and voluminous work with countless scrolls to represent a city like Beijing in order to compare with *Qingming Festival Along the River* in a respectful way because it fascinates me with its completeness and vividness.