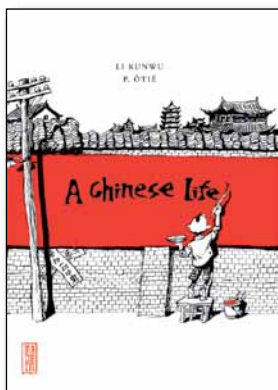


Li Kunwu with Philippe Ôtié, translated by Edward Gauvin
A visionary account of life in the People's Republic of China

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SPRING, 1966.



WE WERE THE FIRST TO ENTER INTO WAR WITH THE NATIONALISTS, WHEN A MOVEMENT OF UNPRECEDENTED SCOPE BEGAN, WHOSE UPHEAVALS HAD REPERCUSSIONS THE WORLD OVER: "THE GREAT PROLETARIAN CULTURAL REVOLUTION".



This remarkable book traces a personal journey through modern history, from the creation of the People's Republic of China in 1949 to the present day. Working in close collaboration with writer Philippe Ôtié, artist Li Kunwu has created a timely and compelling memoir of state and self that is at once epic and intimate, comic and tragic, in scope.

Already a modern classic, this distinctively stylish masterpiece of design chronicles the rise and legacy of Chairman Mao Zedong and his sweeping, often cataclysmic vision for the most populous country on the planet. Li Kunwu witnessed this extraordinary period at first hand, and here intertwines the experiences of his family and neighbours, his friends and rivals, his colleagues and compatriots, in a visionary account of "interesting times".

About the authors:

Li Kunwu (illustrator, co-writer) lives and works in Kunming, Yunnan Province. He is 57 years old and has had over 30 comics works published as a State artist

Philippe Ôtié (co-writer) is a French diplomat, living and working in Wuhan, Hubei Province. This is his first graphic novel

Edward Gauvin (translator) is winner of the 2010 John Dryden Translation prize. He has received fellowships and residencies from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fulbright foundation, the Centre National du Livre, and the American Literary Translators' Association.

Notes for editors

- *A Chinese Life* has never been published in China and the English language edition was banned from its printing in the country
- Originally conceived as three volumes, the English edition is published as 704-page omnibus edition
- Li Kunwu is available to answer questions in written English. Philippe Ôtié is available for pre-recorded interviews in English

About the publisher

SelfMadeHero is a publisher of the finest fiction, biography, history and humour in the graphic novel medium that showcases leading authors and artists from around the world: from the quirky and humorous to the political and profound.

Please contact Maya Bradford for interview, feature and extract enquiries

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Review copies and access to a digital edition of this graphic novel are available on request from

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