

最強
取天
Oh,
My
Goddess!
蚩尤 Chiyu

最強天后 Mazu | Oh, my Goddess!

On the 23rd day of the third lunar month, this is said to be the birthday of Mazu. During this time, Mazu Temples all over the world are crowded with believers of Mazu. At the same time, branches of Mazu Temples start to go back to the head temple for offering incense, offering birthday congratulations, and joining the holy pilgrimage. Taiwan's believers are very enthusiastic during this period and the Minnan saying, "Crazy March with Mazu," is right the best expression to describe the Mazu fanaticism in Taiwan. Variations of celebrating events are extraordinarily bustling as a carnival.

Gods that people are very familiar with, such as Hóo iâ (The Tiger Guardian), Thóo tī kong (The Earth God), Sam tai tzu (Nuo zha), Tsù senn niù niù (Goddess of Birth), and Pat sian (8 Immortals), all dress trendy to join the lively and enjoyable activities. Believers also spontaneously organize Din Tao (Parade Formation) to put on a show. People's passion for Mazu also graces the celebration in a carnival atmosphere. The Taiwanese-style carnival that combines the factors of traditions and modernity creates a roaring and captivating ambience.

蚩尤 | Chiyou

Chiyou was born in Taipei in 1982. He has been devoted to the illustration for a long time. Chiyou once worked for a video game company as a 2D animator participating in creating characters of games. He hopes to tell stories with the best ways and methods through his comic works. Hence, colorful painting, ink painting, and watercolor painting, all are used in his works. Chiyou thinks that comics is just like a silent movie which is a medium used to express ideas via images, so he always tries his best to create works with various painting technics for establishing better dialog spaces with his readers.

Due to the well training of figure drawing at the school of Fine Arts, Chiyou paints women mostly. He thinks that the most beautiful shapes and lines can be found on women's bodies such as fingers, hairs, and eyes. Therefore, he is used to creating women characters combined with various factors such as architecture, birds, and animals to help him to tell stories.

Recently, Chiyou has attained spiritual enlightenment through the great nature, so he believes in the Mutualism and hates pollutions caused by the heavy industries. The work "The 3/4 waterland" is a story about the mass extinction on the intertidal and the coral bleaching events. His creation faith is to learn from nature. He thinks that human beings are just the intermediary of nature, but human beings often think highly of themselves, trying to conquer nature, but the result of such actions is often paradoxical. Chiyou encourages himself to continuously learn from nature, and he will humbly practice and work henceforward.



MA ZU

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Actress in a Supporting Role.

註生娘娘

Tsù senn niû niû | Goddess of Birth

Tsù senn niû niû is respected by people because she associates with the responsibilities such as women's pregnancy, childbirth, and the growth of children. She holds a book and a pen, and it indicates that she always carefully makes records on the heirs of families.





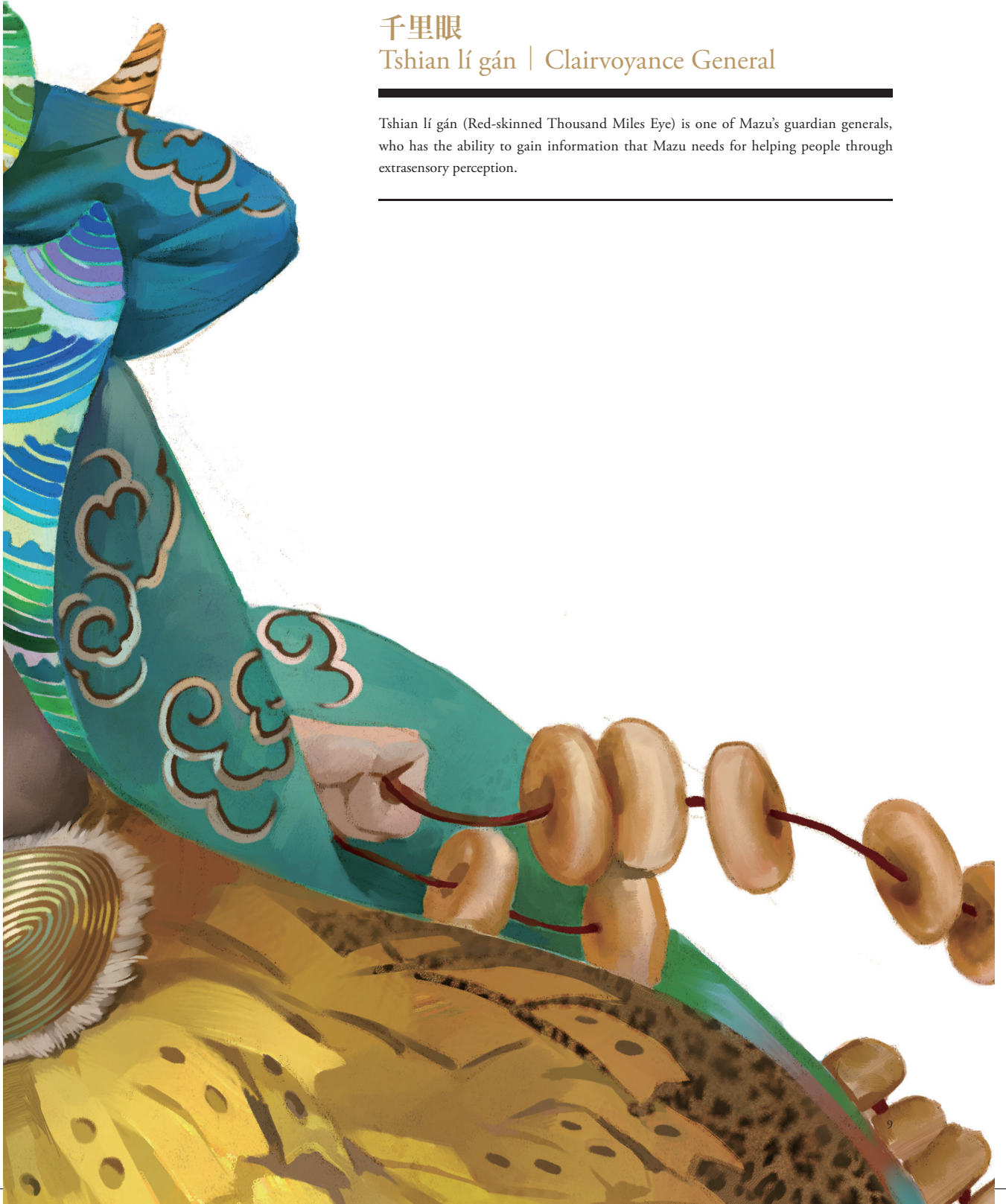


The two famous friends and helpers of Mazu.

千里眼

Tshian lí gán | Clairvoyance General

Tshian lí gán (Red-skinned Thousand Miles Eye) is one of Mazu's guardian generals, who has the ability to gain information that Mazu needs for helping people through extrasensory perception.





The two famous friends and helpers of Mazu.

順風耳

Sūn hong ní | Clairaudient General

Sūn hong ní (Green-skinned With-the-Wind Ear) is one of Mazu's guardian generals, who has the ability of clear hearing, especially towards the prayers to Mazu.



Actress—Empress of Heaven, Mazu

媽祖

Mazu | Heavenly Holy Mother-Mazu

Mazu's birthplace was Meizhou in Fujian Province of China. She practiced spiritually, owning special abilities and helped people quite often when she was alive. After she attended the heaven, she always appeared in the world to help seafarers, such as fishermen and sailors, to go through difficulties. Mazu is the most important patron goddess of seas and is widely worshiped in the coastal regions of China and Taiwan. It is well known that the worship of Mazu is one of the most important folk religions in Taiwan. Mazu conquered demons and helped believers with the image of "goddess of seas," and was just like a Holy Mother taking care of people with her warm heart. If Mazu could appear in the present time, she would be a gentle and an independent woman without doubts.









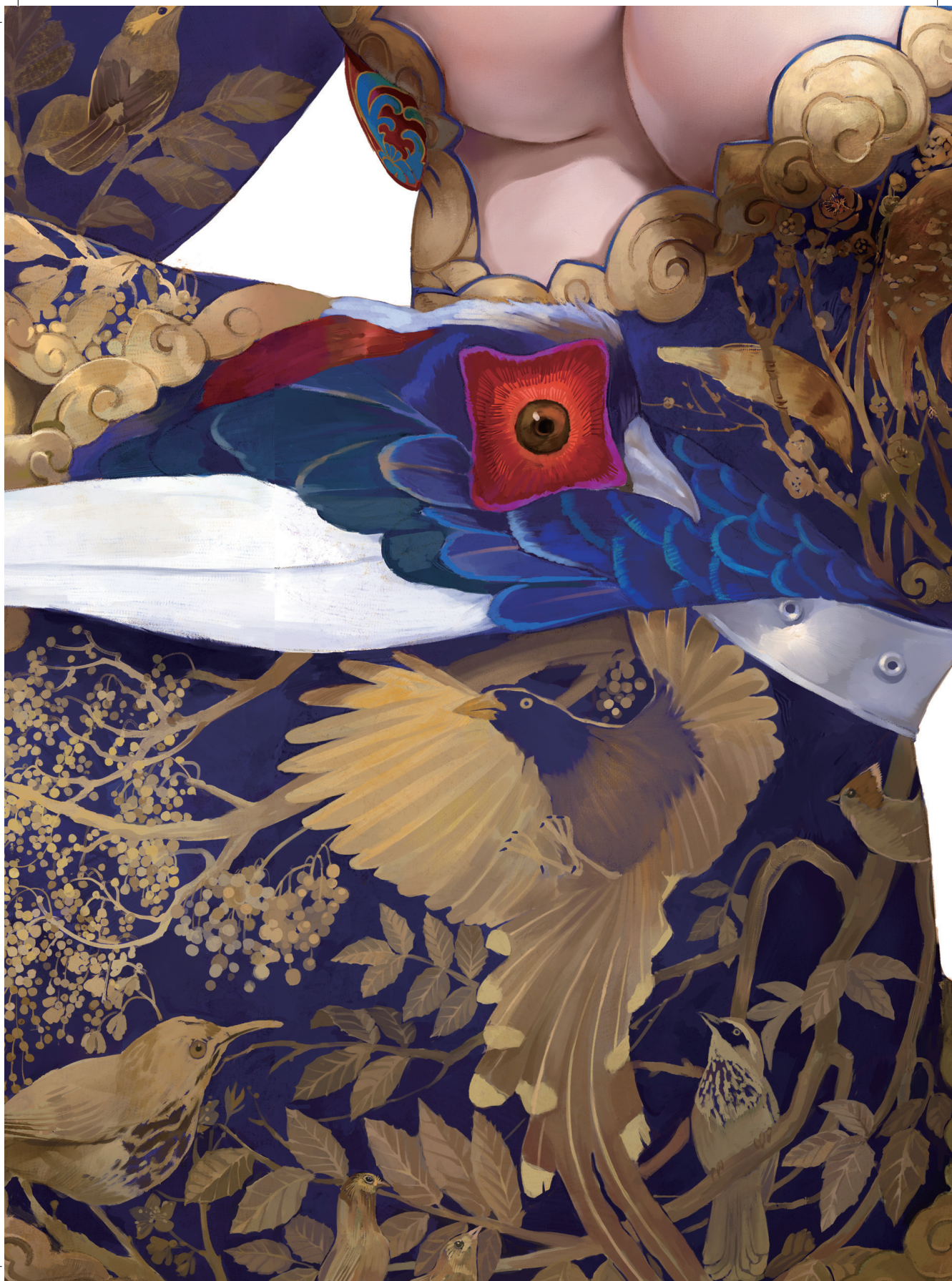
Mazu's Accessories

Crown

According to legend, it was believed that Mazu was one of many manifestations of Guanyin on earth. Hence, her headdress reflects a cowgirl (Avalokitesvara) on the middle of the crown with lotus leaves. Besides, the crown is also designed with the factors of swallow-tail roofs from a very prominent part of the traditional Minnan temple, and the symbolism of water, Chi Hu (the 2nd son of the dragon), is representative of the wishes and prayers of avoiding the disaster of fire. Plus, the head-ornaments are designed with wavy decorations, agates, and jade hairpins. The gold medal and the carp indicate the good luck and the happiness. Three immortals, God of happiness, God of fortunes, and God of long lives, are vaguely visible from back.

Eye makeup, Earrings

Mazu's eye makeup is drawn with the decorative patterns, such as Chi hu, bats, and lucky clouds. Mazu's earrings are designed with butterflies because butterflies mean good lucks.





Mazu's Accessories

Dress

The theme of the dress is "Hundreds of Birds Worshipping the Phoenix." The clothes compromise Taiwan's special birds and plants.

Birds: Ring-necked Pheasant, Mikado Pheasant, Swinhoe's Pheasant, White-backed Woodpecker, Muller's Barbet, Taiwan Firecrest, Taiwan Tit, Formosan Blue Magpie, Black-necklaced Scimitar-babbler, Taiwan Scimitar-babbler, Taiwan Liocichla

Plants: Fagus Hayate Palib, Manyfruit Idesia, Taiwan Cherry, Taiwan Angelica-tree





Mazu's Accessories

High heels

The design of toes compromises the factors of "a pair of lions play with a ball" and the curling grass patterns which symbolize "I will do what you have asked." The heels are designed separately with the right-angled and the curving patterns of Chi hu.

報馬仔

Pò bé á | Informant

The group of Pò bé á is always at the head of the queue in order to scout ahead and deliver messages. It is a common group in the Mazu pilgrimage.







龍鳳獅陣

Liông-hông sai tīn | Dragon, Phoenix and Lion's Array

Liông-hông sai tīn is one kind of Taiwanese Din Tao. People play the roles of the dragon, the phoenix, and the lions to fight and to play with one child in the array of this Din Tao.



虎爺

Hóo iâ | The Tiger Guardian

Hóo iâ was the mount of mountain deities, earth gods, and Chenghuang Ye (City Gods) at the very beginning; but later, Hóo iâ appeared and became many gods' mounts in different stories and tales. It is well known that Hóo iâ is a guardian spirit who may protect areas, villages, cities, and temples. At the early period, children often played around under the altar so that they could easily meet and intimate to Hóo iâ. Therefore, Hóo iâ also became the children guardian. Hóo iâ likes to bite money, so it is believed that Hóo iâ owns the power of bringing in wealth and treasure.

