

**worldscene****Author sues filmmaker Tyler Perry over plot of 2102 film**

An American author sued the prolific filmmaker Tyler Perry in a federal court on Tuesday, accusing him of lifting the plot of his 2012 movie, *Good Deeds*, from her book. Terri Donald, who also writes under the pseudonym TLO Redness, says Perry based the film on her 2007 book, *Bad Apples Can Be Good Fruit*.

**Sesame Street puppeteer faces new sex-with-minor allegation**

The puppeteer formerly behind the *Sesame Street* character Elmo faces a new accusation of having sex with an underage boy, a week after a similar allegation prompted him to resign from the iconic public TV children's program. In a lawsuit filed Tuesday in a Manhattan district court, a man identified only as "John" alleges Kevin Clash engaged in oral sex and other sex acts with him when John was 16 years old. The suit seeks at least \$75,000 in damages.

**Rycroft sambahs to victory on *Dancing all-stars* edition**

Melissa Rycroft was crowned champion of the celebrity television competition *Dancing With the Stars* on Tuesday, propelled by perfect scores from the judges and fan votes which spelled victory for the television host. Rycroft, a former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader who was also a contestant on the reality dating show *The Bachelor*, danced with partner Tony Dovolani and dazzled the show's judges on Monday with a samba and a freestyle dance, both of which earned perfect 10 scores from all three judges.

**Hobbit faithful occupy New Zealand city ahead of premiere**

New Zealand's capital of Wellington was taken over by pointy-eared, costumed Hobbit fans on Wednesday, many of whom camped overnight to grab the best spots for the red carpet world premiere of the film later in the day. Wellington, where director Peter Jackson and much of the post production is based, has renamed itself "the Middle of Middle Earth", and fans with prominent Hobbit ears, medieval style costumes, gray beards, wigs, and wizard hats claimed spaces along the 500 meter red carpet.

**Turkey's prime minister fumes over steamy Ottoman soap opera**

A hit TV show about the Ottoman empire's longest-reigning sultan has raised a political storm in Turkey, with Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan urging legal action over historical inaccuracies and the opposition accusing him of artistic tyranny. Erdogan tore into the weekly soap opera *Magnificent Century*, which attracts an audience of up to 150 million people in Turkey as well as parts of the Balkans and Middle East, in response to criticism of his government's foreign policy.

**Piano from *Casablanca* could sell for \$1 million at NY auction**

The piano from the Oscar-winning film *Casablanca* could fetch more than \$1 million when it is sold at auction in New York next month on the 70th anniversary of the premiere of the classic movie, Sotheby's said on Tuesday. The 58-key piano, on which actor and singer Dooley Wilson performed *As Time Goes By*, has a pre-sale estimate of \$800,000 to \$1.2 million for the Dec 14 auction.

**Spirit film nominations include gay dramas and quirky comedies**

Odd comedies *Silver Linings Playbook* and *Moonrise Kingdom* led nominations on Tuesday for the 2013 Spirit Awards, one of the largest celebrations of independent films. The two movies notched up five nominations apiece, including best feature film and director, just ahead of the mystical *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, gay drama *Keep the Lights On*, and dark drama *Middle of Nowhere* with four each, organizers announced.

**Rihanna's *Unapologetic* tops Billboard album chart**

R&B singer Rihanna shot straight to the top of the Billboard 200 album chart on Tuesday with her seventh record *Unapologetic*, scoring her first No 1 album despite mixed reviews. *Unapologetic*, which topped iTunes charts in 43 countries just hours after its release on Nov 19, sold 238,000 copies according to Billboard, scoring the 24-year-old singer from Barbados her best opening sales week to date.

**Kim Kardashian tops list of Bing searches**

Kim Kardashian topped the 2012 list of the most-searched person on Bing, the Web search engine said on Tuesday, with Canadian teen pop star Justin Bieber coming in second. Kardashian, the reality television personality from *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, grabbed the No 1 spot back from Bieber after she topped Bing's annual list in 2010 and Bieber came in first last year.

REUTERS

# 'Flowers behind every door'

In her first solo art exhibition, former singer Ai Jing shows a love for the Earth and humanity. **Chen Nan** finds out more.

**M**ore than 20 years ago, singer-songwriter Ai Jing rose to fame with the song, *My 1997*. It expresses her love for a man living in Hong Kong, and how she eagerly awaits the year 1997 and the return of Hong Kong to China, so she can visit him.

Soon after, she signed a contract with Sony Music Entertainment of Japan, which helped Ai's career and led to the release of albums in the United States such as *Made In China* and concerts all over Asia.

Ai, however, became disenchanted with success and traveled to Europe for further inspiration.

"Songwriting requires passion and meditation on one's life, but I couldn't feel that any more. I needed to slow down and figure a way out to express myself," Ai says.

The 42-year-old has been studying since 1999 to become a visual artist, with the artist Zhang Xiaogang. Now, after two years of preparation, she is holding her first solo exhibition, *I Love Ai Jing*, at the National Museum of China in Beijing, from Nov 19 to Dec 9.

With nearly 100 artworks, ranging from installations to oil paintings, Ai presents a decade of work in the 2,000-square-meter exhibition hall.

"Making choices in a life journey is like opening unfamiliar doors. You don't know what lies behind," Ai says. "Believe in the good, do not be afraid of the unknown, there must be flowers behind every door."

"Love is an eternal theme and is everywhere in my visual artworks. When I searched for the source of love, I naturally thought of my mother and my hometown of Shenyang."

Winter in Ai's hometown means temperatures that dip to -30 C, so she used to wear woolen clothes made by her mom to keep her warm. For the exhibition, she invited her mother to do an artwork inspired by her knitting.

In the end 55 people, including her mother, friends and hometown relatives, helped with the artwork.

By knitting with yarn from old woolen garments they no longer wear, they made a tapestry of more than 2,400 pieces of fabric, with the word "Love" on it.

The tapestry installation is 6-meters wide and 16-meters long. Rich in color and titled *My Mom and My Hometown*, a statue of Ai's mother has been placed at the end of the work, diligently knitting.

"It was easy as almost every woman in the north knows how to knit. Whatever my daughter does, I support her," comments Ai's 63-year-old mother Bo Zhongying.

Ai was raised in the Tiexi district of Shenyang, Liaoning province, an area with a lot of heavy industry.

Her mother married her father at a machine tool factory. He was good at playing folk instruments such as the *erhu*.

"My music teacher was my father," she sings in her hit song *My 1997*.

In 1987, Ai Jing came to Beijing, joined Beijing Oriental Song and Dance Troupe. Two years later, she went to Guangzhou and released her breakout album.

"The song's success was overwhelming, just like giving me a pair of wings, enabling me to fly high," she recalls.

During her trip to Europe in 1995, she was fascinated by the artworks at the Louvre Museum and Pompidou Center in France.

Sitting on the steps outside the Pompidou Center, she felt as if she was in love. "It was the moment when I felt I'd arrived as an artist."

Zhang Xiaogang, who originally met Ai in 1998 in a Beijing bar, says US graffiti artist Keith Haring was a huge influence on her for a long time.

In the summer of 2009, Ai submitted a plan for an exhibition to portray New York. She went to ground zero of the World Trade Center, recording the sounds of construction, and the sounds of wind at the Empire State Building.

It led to her installation *Sound of New York*, which was displayed at the exhibition, *The Drop-Urban Art Infill*, in New York, 2009.

Richard Vine, senior editor of *Art In America* magazine, said he was impressed by the artist's progress and picked out her video installation work *My Hometown* for particular praise, saying Ai focuses on preserving her memories of family and home.

"I have a particular feeling about this installation because I came from a similar industrial hometown," Vine says. "Her vision is unique and the materials she employed are also interesting."

This is the first time for National Museum of China to present a contemporary artist's works. Chen Lusheng, deputy director of the museum, says Ai's artworks are rebellious yet show a love for Earth and humanity.

"As an artist, Ai is full of dreams and uses the simplest approach to express her ideas," says Chen, who is also the curator of the exhibition.

"Her artworks are all closely related to her experience. She has come a long way and her identity keeps changing."

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PHOTOS BY ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

The former singer-songwriter Ai Jing makes her comeback in a contemporary art exhibition at the National Museum of China.



The artwork *My Mom and My Hometown*, inspired by her mother's knitting, is made up of more than 2,400 pieces of fabric with the word "love" on it.

## Ladder of Love destined to pass into posterity

By **Ji Jin** and **Ma Wei** in Chongqing  
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A five-decade old love story is celebrated by 6,000 stone steps on a 1,500-meter-high mountain in Gaotan village, Jiangjin district, Chongqing.

It was hand carved by Liu Guojiang over more than 52 years and is known as the "Ladder of Love". Since 2001, when a group of adventurers were surprised to find the elderly couple and their Ladder of Love, it has attracted people from far and wide.

In 1951, 16-year-old Liu met 26-year-old Xu Chaoping and fell in love. She was a widow with four children and in the remote village at that time it was taboo for a man to marry an older woman, let alone a widow.

However, Liu had made up his mind and the whole family moved to a secluded house in the mountains, so as to avoid criticism and discrimination from villagers.

The house was erected with hand-made tiles and bricks. And since they frequently had to climb up and down the mountain, Liu started hand-carving steps into the rocky ridges.

In 2006, the couple left their mountain retreat for the first time and an interview with China Central Television, after winning the award for China's greatest love story of the year.

In the interview, Xu recalled their harsh life in the first few years and said she often asked her husband if she was a burden.

"As long as we work hard enough, life will get bet-

ter," Liu always answered.

In 2007, Liu passed away and Xu moved in with her sons, grieved and eventually died on Oct 30, this year. Her children buried her with Liu, according to Xu's wishes.

The local authority has decided to transform the couple's old house into a museum and the steps into a tourist site to commemorate their love story.

According to the publicity department of Jiangjin district, a new highway will make the attraction more accessible for visitors to explore.

In a Sina Weibo poll, however, 20,000 were against transforming Ladder of Love into a scenic spot, against 1,000 plus in support.

"The Ladder of Love is priceless," posted the *weibo* user nicknamed "Heart-On-The-Road". "I hope it can stay pure and stay away from business and money."



PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

It was built as a labor of love by Liu Guojiang (left) and Xu Chaoping.



The Ladder of Love is located in Gaotan village, Jiangjin district, Chongqing.