Miniature Art, Maximum Skill　　微型雕刻，毫芒艺术

IF you study [Michelangelo](#)'s *[David](#)* or [Auguste Rodin](#)'s *[The Thinker](#)*, it's apparent that master sculptors must possess a **steady** hand as well as **keen** eye for detail. So, just imagine the **incredible** skill set that's required to create sculptures that are smaller than your fingertip. In this art form, known as **microscopic**-carving, there is never any room for error.

如果你仔细观察米开朗基罗的《戴维像》或是奥古斯特．罗丹的《沉思者》，很显然地雕刻大师必须具备一双稳定的手以及不放过任何细节的敏锐眼光。那么，请想象一下创作比你指尖还小的雕塑所必备的技巧会是多么惊人。这种称为微型雕刻的艺术形式，不能允许任何一丁点失误。

The earliest microscopic-carvings ever discovered are over 3,000 years old. They were created by ancient Chinese who carved designs on bones and **tortoise** shells. These early **practitioners** often used **[qigong](#)** to control their breathing, **ensuring** that they wouldn't get **jittery** and make a **stroke** that would **destroy** their work. A modern day master at the **forefront** of [miniature art](#) is a 49-year-old Brazilian **carpenter** named Dalton Ghetti. But instead of shells or bones, Ghetti has made his mark by carving sculptures on pencil tips. He **stumbled upon** this unusual **medium** when he was looking for a challenge as a student.

目前发现最古老的微型雕刻有三千多年的历史，这些作品是远古时期中国人在骨头或龟壳上刻的花纹。这些早期的工匠常以气功控制呼吸，以确保他们不会手抖而一笔毁掉整个作品。现代有一位走在微型艺术前端的大师，就是 49 岁的巴西裔木匠——道顿．盖提。不过他并非在龟壳或骨头上雕刻，而是以铅笔笔尖的雕刻闯出一番名号。这个不寻常的素材是他在学生时期为了追求挑战而偶然接触的。

Ghetti uses three tools to make his **minute** masterpieces: a razor blade, a sculpting knife, and a sewing needle. He makes microscopic lines and **scratches** with one hand, while the other hand slowly turns the pencil. Over the years, Ghetti has created an **assortment** of incredible sculptures. Although his works are extremely small, sometimes they **demand** large time **commitments**. One pencil sculpture, which featured complex interlinking chains, took him two-and-a-half years to finish.

盖提用刀片、雕刻刀、缝纫用针这三样工具来创作他精细的大作。他用一只手刻，另一只手缓慢地转动铅笔，以创造出超威细的线条和刻痕。盖提这几年来已创作出各式各样令人叹为观止的雕塑作品。虽然他的作品都极小件，但有时候需要投入大量的时间才能完成。他其中一件铅笔雕刻，有着复杂、相互串联的链子，花了他两年半的时间才完成！

Like many artists, Ghetti is not **in it** for the money. In fact, he prefers to give his works away to his friends instead of selling them. But if he ever changes his mind, those tiny **trinkets** are sure to bring in a small **fortune**.

盖提如同许多艺术家一样，不是为了钱创作。事实上，他偏好把作品送给朋友，而不是卖掉。但要是哪一天他改变心意，这些小玩意儿绝对能让他小赚一笔。

—*by Jamie Blackler*

Vocabulary

maximum [ˋmæksəməm] adj. 最大的；最多的；最高的

steady [ˋstɛdɪ] adj. 稳固的，平稳的

keen [kin] adj. 敏锐的

ensure [ɪnˋʃʊr] v. 保证；确保

destroy [dɪˋstrɔɪ] v. 毁坏，破坏

forefront [ˋforˌfrʌnt] n. 处于领先地位

fortune [ˋfɔrtʃən] n. 财产，财富

stumble across/on/upon sth/sb: 偶然碰见，碰巧发现 to discover something by chance, or to meet someone by chance

incredible [ɪnˋkrɛdəb!] adj.【口】难以置信的；惊人的

demand [dɪˋmænd] v. 需要

commitment[kəˋmɪtmənt] n. 献身

More Information

miniature [ˋmɪnɪətʃɚ] adj. 小型的；微型的

microscopic [ˋmaɪkrəˋskɑpɪk] adj. 微小的

practitioner [prækˋtɪʃənɚ] n. 从事者，实践者

qigong 气功

jittery [ˋdʒɪtərɪ] adj. 焦虑的；紧张的

stroke [strok] n. 一笔；一刀 a sudden action or process having a strong impact or effect

carpenter [ˋkɑrpəntɚ] n. 木工，木匠

minute [ˋmɪnɪt] adj. 微小的

scratch[skrætʃ] v. 刻出

assortment [əˋsɔrtmənt] n. 各式各样东西的混合

in it: 从事于；参加着 *Austral informal* joining in; taking part

trinket [ˋtrɪŋkɪt] n. 小装饰物；廉价首饰

medium [ˋmidɪəm] n.（艺术创作所用的）材料

tortoise [ˋtɔrtəs] n. 龟，乌龟