



## Tree of World Cultures

The combination of Toyism with the concept of the "Tree of World Cultures" results in a unique and colorful work of art that uses the distinctive Toyism style to represent the diverse cultural elements designed by artists around the world.

### Center of the composition:

Central to the composition is a large tree (metaphor for growth, development and connection), depicted in a playful, Toyistic way. This tree acts as the central hub that connects all cultural elements. From the bottom, colorful, winding branches emerge that extend outward, each representing a different aspect of world culture. The winding branches connect and intertwine, creating a vibrant and interconnected world.

China's position at the center of this global cultural exchange powerfully illustrates its important role in connecting the world.

### Cultural monuments:

The iconic elements of Chinese culture such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven, the 798 Art District famous for its art galleries, studios and cultural events recognizable by the many factory buildings in the style of the German Bauhaus with its Modernist and minimalist design, alongside the ultra-modern architecture of leading architects in Beijing and Shanghai, come together in the cultural wealth of China and are creatively integrated into the heart of the artwork.

The entire composition is filled with astute details, patterns and a sense of joyful chaos with bright, contrasting colors and playful, imaginative shapes and metaphors that reflect the essence of Toyism. The end result is a visually captivating and imaginative representation of the world's diverse cultures, all linked by the central theme and the playful, surreal and colorful style of toyism.

### Mozart's musical web:

At the end of a branch, we see Mozart wearing headphones as a special spider that weaves a colorful musical web. This web extends to different parts of the world, symbolizing the universal appeal and reach of classical music.

The mythical creature dances to the sounds coming from the musical web and is depicted as a wise Centaur, referring to the stories of Harry Potter.

*It symbolizes harmony and connection between music and human nature.*

### Culinary elements:

Directly below the musical web we see a French baguette inspired by Mozart's music playing an accordion on a piece of aged French cheese. This represents French culture and gastronomy, which is known worldwide for quality. In addition to the red grapes on the piece of old cheese, we see the 5

Olympic rings that symbolize global unity and the connection of the 5 continents. The colors also represent passion, confidence, victory, ethics and sportsmanship.

*Beijing was the first city to organize both the summer (2008) and winter editions (2022).*

To the left of the rings, we see Amsterdam canal houses closely intertwined with Dutch tulips and the well-known ritual of a raw herring sliding into a mouth. A historic, sailing cargo ship, the traditional Tjalk sails at the edge of the world, on route to China known as a seafaring nation. These elements represent Dutch culture and traditions, including maritime history.

In addition, two best friends from different continents, one eats a dumpling with a chopstick, the other drops a raw herring into her mouth.

*They symbolize the diversity of global culinary traditions and the culinary connection between different cultures.*

In the culinary kitchen, the traditional waiter makes way for the robot.

*This reflects the increasing automation and technological progress in the catering industry.*

Another branch, at the top right of the artwork, ends with a playful pair of oversized chopsticks gripping one of Kuala Lumpur's Twin Towers, surrounded by Chinese noodles, showcasing the culinary diversity and universal appeal of food.

*This points to cultural and culinary connections between Asia and the rest of the world.*

On the far right, the Milk Mills in the Netherlands are set in motion by Cabbage Cows and fed with milk from the udders of ordinary cows. The mills produce cheese cubes that turn into the bodies of Sweet Cheese Sheep. In Switzerland - in the city of Basel - obese construction workers are building the third building ("Bau 3") of the Roche Türme (Towers). These buildings produce sugar cubes that turn into Sweet Cheese Sheep heads.

The Sweet Cheese Sheep and Cabbage Cows are mixed in the meat grinder. The meat grinder feeds the Dutch meadows - which produce grass for the cows - and provides nutritious food for the construction workers.

*This is an allegorical representation of food production, combining different elements.*

Below that, this includes Sergei Rachmaninoff, considered by many to be the greatest pianist of all time, who this time does not play the piano but a harp and is now accompanied on the piano by four musical birds, a metaphor for one of the greatest bands in pop history, the Beatles.

*This refers to the diversity of musical genres and artists, with both classical music and popular music represented.*

This artwork presents a rich symbolism and connection between various cultural, musical and culinary elements, emphasizing the universal nature of these aspects.