

## Retracing the Ancient Silk Road With New Chinese Ceramic Art

By Xi Fang

In occasion of the Ceramic Cultural Week at Expo 2015, an exhibition on the art and culture of Jingdezhen ceramic has been carried out in the KIP Pavilion from 16 to 21 July.

The exhibition entitled *New china from China* was inaugurated on 18 July, 2015 in the Chinese Pavilion, celebrating the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Italy. After the KIP Pavilion, it will continue its journey in Milan, Shanghai, Beijing, Jingdezhen and other cities, retracing the ancient Silk Road.



Jingdezhen is the capital of Chinese porcelain, where the art of china production was born thousands of years ago and many crafts are handed down from one generation to another. For instance, one of the characteristic techniques of Jingdezhen is that of openwork, with which artisans pierce rice grain-shaped holes on the vase body, fill them with special glaze and then fire the body at high temperature; finally, the holes turn out to be semitransparent, lustrous and delicate.

Porcelain is the soul of Jingdezhen city and its opportunity to develop and rejuvenate itself. Many renowned artists come to settle down in this small city, giving up their status, honour and title to pursue their dream of china and perfect their artistic techniques.

Refined ceramic treasures representing the highest artistic and technical achievement of new Chinese ceramic have been presented during the exhibition. The works on display are unique pieces made by the artists and artisans from the Jiangxi Ceramic Research Institute, Jingdezhen Official Kiln Enamel Institute, Jingdezhen Color Glaze Ceramic Art Research Institute and local small-medium porcelain producers of Jingdezhen.

All of the exhibited pieces are combination



between tradition and innovation, where traditional techniques, attitudes and artistic elements like the blue and white element (*qing-hua*), flower and bird pattern, jewelry enamel technique and high-temperature underglaze colours are innovated with new elements, new techniques and international aesthetics.

With the organization of the City of Jingdezhen of Jiangxi Provincial People's Government, Greenland Group (Jiangxi Division), Maylink Group and the support of Ma.Design International, together with the twenty-first century crossover contemporary artist Simon Ma, the Ceramic Cultural Week and Jingdezhen Greenland Group (Milan) ceramic culture and art exhibition coordinate with the strategic idea "One Belt and One Road" advocated by the president of China Xi Jinping, especially in terms of strategic cultural exchange and development.

