

'MARRIAGE PROPOSAL' interactive art project by VARVARA SHAVROVA as part of Intrude366 at Zengdai MOMA

**Propose Marriage Today!
Only on February 29th, once every four years!**

This is your chance to come into our Wedding Party Room, try on a wedding dress, have make up done, and have a photograph taken! Then leave a Marriage Proposal Message on our curtain message board!

求婚日！

四年一次的机会，绝对不容错过！

走进礼堂，穿上婚纱，相片为您凝固这精彩一瞬！请在幕帘信息板上留下您的求婚表白。

Leap Year Tradition 闰年传统

Leap Year has been the traditional time that women can propose marriage. In many of today's cultures, it is okay for a woman to propose marriage to a man. Society doesn't look down on such women. However, that hasn't always been the case. When the rules of courtship were stricter, women were only allowed to pop the question on one day every four years. That day was February 29th.

传统上，女子可在闰年提出求婚。当今很多文化都允许女子向男子求婚。社会并不会因此看轻她们。然而，历史上情况却大相径庭。其时求爱规则相当严格，女子向男子求婚的机会每四年才有一次。那便是在 2 月 29 日。

St. Bridget's Complaint 圣女布里奇特诉苦

It is believed this tradition was started in 5th century Ireland when St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about women having to wait for so long for a man to propose. According to legend, St. Patrick said the yearning females could propose on this one day in February during the leap year. 大家普遍认为这一传统始于公元 5 世纪的爱尔兰，当时，圣女布里奇特向圣帕特里克诉苦，称为了等来男子向自己求婚，女子必须等待良久。据传，圣帕特里克于是允许女子在闰年二月的最后一天向男子求婚。

February 29th in English Law 英国法律中的 2 月 29 日

According to English law, February 29th was ignored and had no legal status. Folks assumed that traditions would also have no status on that day. It was also reasoned that since the leap year day existed to fix a problem in the calendar, it could also be used to fix an old and unjust custom that only let men propose marriage.

The first documentation of this practice dates back to 1288, when Scotland passed a law that allowed women to propose marriage to the man of their choice in that year. They also made it law that any man who declined a proposal in a leap year must pay a fine. The fine could range from a kiss to payment for a silk dress or a pair of gloves.

根据英国法律规定，2 月 29 日没有法律地位，可忽略不计。于是，人们便将此规定加以推广，认定传统习俗在这一天也不具效力。有人还提出理由说闰日的存在是为了解决历法上的问题，既然如此，那么闰日也可以作为对古老却有失公允的传统习俗的调整，改变只有男子可以向女子求婚的习俗。关于这一习俗的首个记载可追溯到 1288 年，当时苏格兰通过立法，允许女子在那一年向自己中意的男子求婚。他们同时还立法规定所有在闰年拒绝女子求婚的男子都必须受到处罚。处罚可能是一个吻，也可能是支付丝绸礼服或手套的费用等。

Sadie Hawkins Day 赛迪·霍金斯节

In the United States, some people have referred to this date as Sadie Hawkins Day with women being given the right to run after unmarried men to propose.

Sadie Hawkins was a female character in the Al Capp cartoon strip *Li'l Abner*. Many communities prefer to celebrate Sadie Hawkins Day in November which is when Al Capp first mentioned Sadie Hawkins Day.

在美国，有些人将这一天比作赛迪·霍金斯节（注：11月15日，在美国这一天为男女幽会日，且由女孩主动约男孩），女子有权向未婚男子求婚。

赛迪·霍金斯是艾尔·凯普(Al Capp)连环画《莱尔·阿布纳》(*Li'l Abner*)中的一个女孩。很多人喜欢在11月庆祝赛迪·霍金斯节，因为那是艾尔·凯普首次提到赛迪·霍金斯节。

Greek Superstition 希腊迷信

There is a Greek superstition that claims couples have bad luck if they marry during a leap year. Apparently one in five engaged couples in Greece will avoid planning their wedding during a leap year.

希腊有一种迷信，情侣如果在闰年结婚，将会遭遇厄运。显然，每5对希腊订婚情侣中就有1对避免在闰年举行婚礼。

In China women from Naxi minority to this day continue the tradition of matriarchy. Women's rule the households, look after the land, bring up children- and occasionally invite the men to take part in family life. But only as visitors!

| ~~Naxi~~ ~~Mosu~~ minority women go as far as proposing marriage to their men!

在中国，纳西族至今仍然保持着母系社会的传统。女性乃一家之主，掌管土地、抚养孩子——偶尔也邀请男子来参与家庭生活。不过，男子的角色仅仅是过客！

| ~~纳西摩梭~~族则保持着女子向男子求婚的习俗！

Naxi Nationality 纳西族

Lijiang is the base of the Naxi (also spelled Nakhi and Nahi) minority, who number about 278,000 in Sichuan and Yunnan. The Naxi are descended from Tibetan nomads and lived until recently in matriarchal families, though local rulers were always male.

纳西族多生活在丽江，在四川云南两地人数约为27万8千人。纳西族的祖先是西藏游牧民族，虽然当地主要管理者是男性，但是纳西族人至今仍保持着母系社会传统。

| Women seem to run the show, certainly in the old part of Lijiang. The ~~Naxi~~ matriarchs maintained their hold over the men with flexible arrangements for love affairs. Both partners would continue to live in their respective homes; the boyfriend would spend the night at his girlfriend house but return to live and work at his mother's house during the day.

在古老的丽江，女性主导着氏族生活。女性家长对于婚姻拥有绝对掌控权。男女双方婚后仍然在各自原先的家庭居住，男方晚上会在女方家度过，而白天则回到自己母亲的家里生活、工作。

Any children born to the couple belonged to the woman, who was responsible for bringing them up. The father provided support, but once the relationship was over so was the support. Women inherited all property, and disputes were adjudicated by female elders.

夫妻两人生孩子属于女方，由女方负责把孩子抚养成人。父亲提供辅助支持，而一旦双方关系结束，这样的辅助支持也就随之结束。女性继承所有财产。纠纷也由年长的女性负责裁定。

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