



PRESS RELEASE

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Calling all those with a green thumb! The first authentic Chinese bonsai academy in Australia will open in Sydney this June, teaching students traditional Chinese philosophy and its relevance to miniature trees.

The Lingnan Penjing Academy of Australia will teach students Chinese methods of tree artistry known as 'penjing', translating to mean 'tray scenery'.

It involves the cutting and styling of trees using various techniques to turn an ordinary plant into a timeless and living thing of beauty.

The founder of the Academy, Philippe Tot, is well known in the gardening scene as the Curator of the Chinese Gardens of Friendship in Darling Harbour. He has also been personally responsible for their penjing collection since 1994.

Tot frequently holds seminars both here and abroad teaching students about the beauty of Chinese gardens, penjing and Chinese philosophy.

With 25 years of experience, including many years studying in China, Tot has dedicated his life to the Chinese art form. Now, for the first time, he will personally teach others how to create a penjing step by step.

"Many people don't know that the origins of 'bonsai' lies in China," said Tot.

"The Chinese have not been very vocal to Westerners about penjing, as opposed to Japanese bonsai enthusiasts. As a result, ancient Chinese methods have long been unavailable to Western countries.

"Now people have the ability to learn a 5000 year old art form that predates any styling in Japan," he said.

This is the last opportunity for students to get involved before enrolments close.

For information or interviews contact Philippe Tot on 0404 157 822, or visit www.penjing.com.au