



**"Apartment 45," a recent work in Brown's "Apartment" series, which focuses on detailed façades of decades-old apartment buildings. — Nicholas Brown**

ago, when Shanghai was a very different city from what it is today. He likens it back then to "America in the 1960s and 70s."

By his move to China in 2012, the city had changed dramatically, and keeps changing, he said.

"Life has become more convenient," he said. "I don't have to go to import-goods supermarkets but can buy almost all groceries just around the corner."

One thing hasn't changed. Art supplies remain plentiful.

"When I first came to Shanghai, it was just solid art stores on Fuzhou Road," he said. "I was with Jessica's mother, and she's an artist, too. We were very excited looking at all the supplies for sale."

He added, "You can buy the Western-style brushes for one dollar, where they would cost seven or eight times that in the US. I can also buy canvases for a lot less."

Brown said he never had a flair for

learning languages. His Mandarin is limited to social niceties like "hello," "thank you" and "no problem." But despite the linguistic limitations, he said he feels very integrated into his local community. He loves to stop by a small fish shop opposite his home and was a regular of at a nearby pancake shop.

The pancake shop, on the corner of Xi-angyang and Yonkang roads, had to close after three decades because of urban renewal. It was run by Deng Shengqing, a native of Hubei Province.

Brown and Gleeson were regulars at the shop. So regular, in fact, that Deng knew their preference for pancakes with "two eggs, cucumber and lettuce" so well that they didn't even have to order.

And when the shop was scheduled for demolition last year, Brown gave the owner a farewell print of the street corner where the old shop stood.

"And I'll definitely stop by her new shop on Julu Road," he said.



**The inscription on the back of a block painting (above) that Brown and Gleeson gave as a farewell gift to Deng Shengqing, owner of a pancake shop they frequented for years. The corner shop was scheduled for demolition as part of an urban renewal project. — Xu Qing**



**Block paintings by artist Nicholas Brown of street scenes in Shanghai and the photos (left) that inspired them. — Nicholas Brown**