



06.06.21

Georgina & Chandler

The Maas Building was a cool canvas for this creative Matisse-inspired wedding.

In 2011, **Georgina Zhao** and **Chandler Wang**—who both grew up in China—found themselves at Drexel University. Georgina, who hails from Chengdu, was an undergrad in TV production and management, while Chandler, a Bengbu native, was earning his doctorate in mechanical engineering. The pair bonded as international students: “Our relationship made Philly feel more like home,” says Georgina.

After four years of dating, Chandler proposed at the couple’s Conshohocken home. He’d chosen the date—New Year’s Eve—for unique reasons: It was Henri Matisse’s birthday, and Georgina is a fan of the artist. Chandler had a silver ring made with Matisse’s signature cutouts and bought one of the artist’s prints at an auction instead of spending money on a diamond, which thrilled the bride-to-be.

Another twist? The duo said “I do” more than

once. The first time was in Las Vegas in 2018. They planned to host a reception in China afterward but decided to hold the party in the U.S., setting the date for July 17, 2020, at the Maas Building—then moving it to June 6, 2021, due to the pandemic.

But their Big Day ended up being just what they wanted: an art-infused celebration of love. Of course, Matisse’s influence was felt throughout. The bride used the artist’s cutouts as inspiration for the paper goods; Chandler crafted 3-D-printed place-card holders in the form of *Reclining Nude* for the 40 in-person guests.

The digital attendees, many of whom watched from China, were incorporated in a meaningful way, too. They recorded toasts in advance, and their messages were played on-screen at the reception. “They were beautifully done,” says Georgina. “We hope we will see each other again soon.”

VENUE
The Maas Building, Kensington

PHOTOGRAPHY
Liz Gibbs Photography

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The bride’s shoes: Georgina found her sculptural Jacquemus shoes before finding her dress. **The invitations:** The bride designed the bright paper goods. **The duo:** Chandler and Georgina, in a gown she purchased from a shop in China, snapped photos at Dan Isaac Bortz’s mural.





The ceremony: Georgina didn't want the backdrop to take away from the Maas Building's doors or garden, so she created a garland that fluttered gently in the breeze as the couple said their vows. **The appetizers:** Mini cheesesteak cigars with sriracha ketchup were served during cocktail hour. **The guest book:** Attendees signed a copy of *Mister Jiu's in Chinatown: Recipes and Stories From the Birthplace of Chinese American Food* so the couple could later challenge themselves with traditional recipes and share memories of their wedding along the way.



THE DETAILS

Event Design & Coordination
Erica Jill Razze of Capiche Custom Events

Florals
Ceci Luo (bridesmaid)

Catering
Seedling and Sage

Cake
Mole Street Baker

Groom's Attire
Perry Ellis

Hair & Makeup
Jazmin Rae & Co.

Invitations
Georgina Zhao

Videographer
Ryan Cambage

Entertainment
Independence String Ensemble

Officiant
Ying Ying Ren (friend)

Zoom Director
Joseph Qiao (the bride's cousin)

Favors
Good Good Chocolates

Wine Pairing
Swigg Real Wine
Craft Beer & Spirits

“We have so many different views about the world, but we can't stop talking to each other about everything and anything.”

—GEORGINA on their relationship



The dinner setting: The couple encouraged guests to take home the bud vases and flowers, place-card holders, and other decor elements, to reduce waste. **The unplugged approach:** While photos weren't allowed during the ceremony, the couple streamed their “I do's” and reception in two segments so online attendees could take a break for breakfast, since it was already morning in China. **The cake:** Georgina sent Mole Street Baker pictures of Matisse's paper cuts *Le Lanceur de Couteaux* and *La Gerbe* to incorporate into the design.

