

Unique view

Wai Kit Lam describes herself as a “visual artist” who merges photography with video and art installations. She received her Master’s degree in Fine Arts from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2003 and has held several solo exhibitions of her innovative works

TEXT/文 AVIS LEUNG/梁綺蓮

“Many of my works are about identities, which has something to do with my own background,” says Lam, who was born and raised in Hong Kong, received a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from the University of London’s Goldsmiths College, and has worked in various European cities regularly since 2005.

In 1996, she bought her first camera, a Leica Minilux, which is smaller than her palm, to document her overseas student life in Britain. Compared to her other passion, drawing, Lam found photography a simpler, more direct way to capture her art. Since then she has carried the camera with her wherever she goes to gain a unique perspective. The Leica is behind most of her creations which has led to the brand sponsoring the publication of her photo albums.

“My photography starts from observing my surroundings and environment; it’s what I feel from my heart,” says Lam. “It’s a quick capture of how I felt at that moment, that’s why I never carry heavy equipment.”

In recent years Lam has merged photography with sound, creating an art form that has a bigger impact with audiences. Today, she spends most of her time teaching art courses in tertiary institutes in Hong Kong to people from all walks of life – from students in their 20s to professionals in their 30s and 40s.

“Mobile phones with camera functions nowadays can take pretty good pictures; people who love photography are on the rise. But aesthetic appreciation needs to be groomed when young. Hong Kong’s art education isn’t popular enough. You need a solid foundation to promote the art of photography.”

That’s why Lam teaches by encouraging people to observe their surroundings. Thoughts and discussions come next, which eventually leads to the actual creation of art. Lam believes that art isn’t the privilege of a small niche group, but should be a way of life.

眼光獨倒

以「視覺藝術家」自居的林慧潔，擅長將攝影與視覺及裝置藝術等結合。她於2003年取得香港中文大學的藝術碩士學位，曾舉辦多個充滿創意的個人作品展

林慧潔說：「我很多作品都觸及與身份有關的主題，這與我的個人歷史有關。」她是土生土長的香港人，但在倫敦大學Goldsmiths學院取得藝術學士學位，由2005年開始經常在多個歐洲城市工作。

1996年，她在英國買了第一部相機——徠卡Minilux，為留學生活記錄點滴。相對於她醉心的繪畫，攝影是較為簡單的記錄方法，自此她不管去到哪裡，也帶著這部機比她手掌還要小的相機隨行，用來表達對事物的看法。及後她的大部分創作亦出自此部相機，更促使該相機品牌贊助她出版攝影集。

她說：「我的攝影是從觀察身邊景物或環境開始，出自內心對環境的感覺及回應，快捷地記錄當下的感受，所以我不會帶著沉重的器材。」

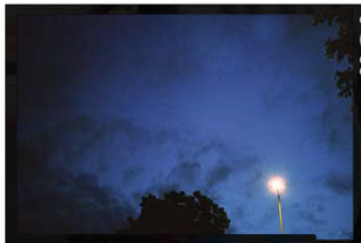
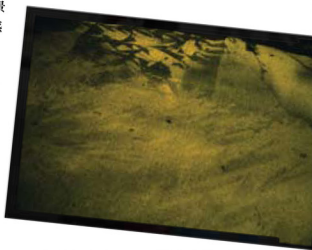
近年，她更將相片與聲音效果結合在一起，創作出另一種藝術型態，加強了照片的感染力。現時，林慧潔主要從事教學工作，在香港多間大專院校教授藝術課程，來上課的有20歲的學生，亦有30、40歲的在職人士。

她說：「現在具攝影功能的電話，已可拍出不錯的照片，多了人喜歡攝影，但審美眼光須自小培養，香港於藝術教育方面不夠普及，要推廣攝影藝術必要有基本根柢。」

因此她希望引導人們觀察身邊事物，思考討論，繼而進行創作。她相信藝術不應是少數人專享，而是生活的一部分。

Pause: Base, 2010, photograph, dibond, 80 x 120 cm (below) and Pause: Drift, 2010, photograph, dibond, 80 x 120 cm (bottom) by Wai Kit Lam

林慧潔的作品：「停頓：據點」，2010，相片，鋁塑複合板，80 x 120 厘米（下圖）；「停頓：漂移」，2010，相片，鋁塑複合板，80 x 120 厘米（最下圖）



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Photos: Portrait: Gareth Brown - Blow Up Studios. Other images: Wai Kit Lam