

發光的世界

— 葉蕾蕾的昇華藝術



Luminous World, the Transformative Sublime of Artist Lily Yeh

編輯部 整理 COMPILED BY EDITORIAL STAFF

以藝術改造社區而享譽國際的葉蕾蕾，生於中國，在台灣長大。台大外文系畢業後，在1960年代初期就到美國進入賓州藝術研究所攻讀碩士。年輕時受過傳統中國山水畫及道家哲學教育的葉蕾蕾，在美國拿到碩士學位後不但開了畫展，還獲聘到費城藝術大學任教。1985年更取得賓州大學中國藝術史的教職。

1985年春，受邀在北費城的廢棄地上蓋一座花園。葉蕾蕾在短短的十幾年中，透過藝術把一個都市之瘤變成藝術與人的社區。當地社區開始有孩子順利進入大學，這在從前是遙不可及的夢想。她也被當地居民暱稱為「天使」。

葉以Lila-Wallace藝術國際委員的身份，在1993年十二月初到奈洛比住了三個月。Korogocho座落在一個巨大的城區垃圾堆邊，是奈洛比的一個郊區村落，有十萬居民。每天有成



千的兒童及成人到這個垃圾場來撿垃圾維生，而被稱為Mukuru人（斯瓦希裏語所指的垃圾）。往後的十年，她跟很多視覺及表演藝術家合作，教社區的住眾，尤其是小孩，種種藝術的創作，其中包括畫畫、製作面具、戲劇創作、攝影、壁畫及塑像。2003年，她跟另一個以Korogocho為基地的「為生命教育」團體合作，製作了大型的工具如圖畫及旗幟，以警醒年輕人愛滋病毒及愛滋病的可怕，並教

導他們防禦措施。

在Korogocho時，有一次當她要為她跟肯亞有名的藝術家Lawi Moshi一起雕塑的新天使塑像找新家的時候，她發現了一塊有尖釘穿透而裸露在外的水泥平臺。附近的木籬笆外巨大的垃圾堆赫然在望，左邊有一間茅廁；這一片廣大的水泥空間有一片平板在左側，是人們每天燒垃圾的地方；這是一個代表卑劣低下的場所。她突然醒悟這就是那些美麗的天使應該座落的地方，在這個被遺棄汗穢的角落。美好天使般的照顧及庇護，可以為這一個黑暗絕望的地方帶來尊嚴和希望。

當人們焚燒垃圾時，所產生的濃煙可以成為供養天使的焚香；這一切都可以相輔相成地融合在一起。在那一天，葉蕾蕾覺得經由藝術的轉變力量及人們的共同合作，推開了地獄沈重黑暗的鋼門，而引進了陽光跟空

氣。那一天，希望來到了這個地獄般的人間。

2003年10月，葉蕾蕾獲得美國福特基金會頒發「改變世界的領袖」獎，因為「她以藝術和領導的藝術，幫助人們改變社區。」緊接著11月，住在紐約的華裔池農森所拍的《葉蕾蕾傳奇》紀錄片也得到影展銅牌獎。而在這之



前，葉蕾蕾的事蹟早被美國公共電視拍成影片——「村子裡的天使」，在全美各地播放。

2003年，葉蕾蕾又成立了[赤足藝術家基金會]，她以藝術治療，振興並改造社區的行動橫跨了美國北費城和一些貧窮社區、盧安達、非洲肯亞首都奈洛比附近的Korogocho，西非迦納首都的James town 社區，甚至，厄瓜多爾、象牙海岸、喬治亞共和國，以及中國等地。2005年，葉蕾蕾也曾返回她成長的故鄉臺灣，帶領啓聰學校的學生一起創作大型壁畫。赤足藝術家基金會旨在訓練強化地方民眾，將社區組織起來，採取行動共創一個更慈悲，更具公平正義以及永續的未來。赤足藝術家基金會目前正在進行

的是[盧安達治療計畫]，已經修建完成一座種族清洗紀念公園，並大力推動浩劫生還者的身心重建訓練計畫。詳細資料可以上網查閱：

www.barefootartists.org

二十多年來，葉蕾蕾放棄大學教職與舒適的生活，吃盡苦頭，藉藝術為貧困落後地區服務，為無助無望的人改造他們的環境與心態，受到大家

的敬佩和讚歎。但她表示：我不是為他人服務，我是為我自己的心；我如果不這樣做，我覺得我的生命像死了一樣。

Internationally-renowned artist Lily Yeh is famous for the transformation of communities through art. She was born in China and grew up in Taiwan. She came to the U.S. in early 1960s after graduating from the Foreign Languages Department of National Taiwan University. Trained in classical Chinese landscape painting and Taoist philosophy in her youth, Lily Yeh's artistic education was redirected when she emigrated from Taiwan and began graduate studies at the Pennsylvania Graduate School of Fine Art. After graduating from the Master's program, she earned gallery shows and a

prestigious professorship at Philadelphia's University of the Arts. In 1985, she began teaching Chinese Art History at the University of Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1985, she was invited to create a garden on an abandoned lot in a crime-ridden, impoverished neighborhood in Northern Philadelphia. Lily Yeh has transformed a slum into a community of arts and humanities in less than 20 years. Young people from the local community started going to college, what used to be a far-flung dream for them. Yeh was called "Angel" by local people in North Philadelphia.

As a Lila-Wallace Arts International Fellow, Lily conducted a three-month residency in Nairobi beginning in December of 1993. Situated right next to a huge city dump, Korogocho is a settlement of 100,000 people at the outskirts of Nairobi. The thousands of children and adults who visit the dumpsite daily to scratch out a living by recycling trash are referred to as Mukuru people (Swahili for "garbage"). Over the next 10 years, she collaborated with many visual and performing artists to engage community residents, especially children, in art projects that included painting, maskmaking, creative drama, photography, mural-painting and sculpture-making. In 2003 she worked with another Korogocho-based organization "Education for Life" to create large-scaled visual tools such as painting and banners to warn young people about the dangers of HIV and AIDS and to educate them about preventive practices.

Reflecting on her experience in Korogocho, one particular moment stayed with her. She was looking for a home for the newly sculpted angels that she co-created with Lawi Moshi, a fine Kenyan artist. She found an abandoned concrete platform with exposed spikes piercing through the concrete. Situated near a wooden fence over which laid the

vast garbage dump and a latrine on its left, the huge concrete block held a flat plate on its lower left side where people burned trash every day; this was a place of abject filth and lowliness. She suddenly realized that this was exactly where the beautiful angels needed to be, in the place of abandonment and disdain. Beauty and angelic guardianship and blessings would bring dignity and hope to places of darkness and despair.

When people burned trash, the smoke from the trash would become the offering of incense to the angels; it all fit well together. "I feel that on that day, through the transformative power of art and through people working together, we pushed open the heavy dark steel gate of hell and let in some sunlight and air. That day, hope came to the people of this hellhole place."

Lily Yeh was awarded the "Leadership for a Changing World" award in

October, 2003, because "she helped people change their communities with her arts and her art in leadership." In November the same year, a documentary "The Legend of Lily Yeh" by Chi Nong Sen, a Chinese videographer in New York, won the third prize in a film festival.

PBS had done a film "An Angel of the Village" about her which was broadcast nationwide in the U.S.

With the founding of Barefoot Artists in 2003, Yeh has taken her practice of healing, empowerment and social change through the arts to poor communities such as North Philadelphia and other poor communities in the States. Yeh also works on projects in Rwanda, Korogocho in Kenya, Jamestown in Ghana, Ecuador, China, and Ivory Coast (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire) among others. In 2005, Lily Yeh went back to Taiwan where she grew up to lead disabled students to create a large-scaled

mural. Barefoot Artists aims to train and empower local residents, organize communities, and take action for a more compassionate, just and sustainable future. Barefoot Artists Foundation launched the Rwanda Healing Project in 2004. A Genocide Memorial Park has been constructed and the Survivors Village has been transformed. For further information about Barefoot Artists, please visit: www.barefootartists.org.

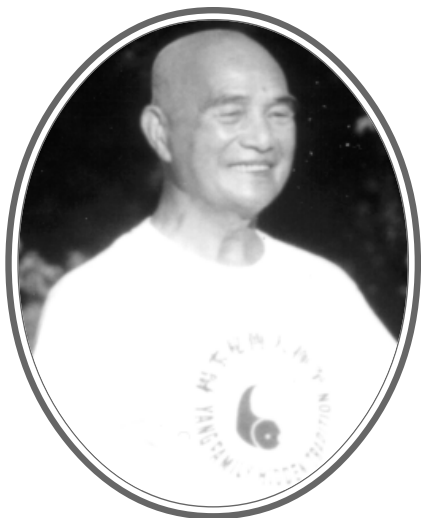
Lily Yeh resigned from her teaching post and renounced her own comfort to toil in serving the poor communities and underdeveloped area for over two decades. She transforms the mentality and living conditions for helpless and hopeless people. People admire and praise her. Yet she said, "I'm not doing this for others. I'm doing it for my own soul. If I hadn't done what I did, I would have died inside."

春日蓮華滿人間——紀念潘柔世老先生

In Memory of Elder Mr. Jou-Shih Pan

The Lotus Flower of Spring Is Everywhere

張福麟 文 / 譯 WRITTEN AND TRANSLATED BY FULIN CHANG



四月七日清晨岳父潘柔世老先生在台北家裏往生，享年八十八歲。接到通知，不禁想起十幾年前，我們搬來聖城當義工後，他每年都來探望我們。每天早上和下午教大家打太極拳。他的大嗓門「吸——」「吐——」。在如來寺、在福居樓、或在佛殿後、大悲院、或師子精舍前，到處都可以聽到他在發號司令，每天耐心地教大家

打太極拳。上人很喜歡他，說他得到太極拳的骨髓，還在對聯課出一對聯「修行必先習太極鍛鍊身心」，鼓勵大家好好的向他學太極拳。

他的太極拳實在打得很好，每次從台北去南部比賽，他的老師王延年都派他去。南部的選手們替他取一個綽號叫「台北的老和尚」，因為他平常都把頭髮剪成短短的光頭。在八十