

同體大悲 — 赤足天使葉蕾蕾

Great Compassion — Lily Yeh, Barefoot Angel

葉蕾蕾講 / 譯 2008年9月6日萬佛城大殿
SPOKEN IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE BY DR. LILY YEH ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2008
IN THE BUDDHA HALL AT THE CITY OF 10,000 BUDDHAS



編按：1960年代從台灣赴美留學的藝術家葉蕾蕾女士，多年來活動於美國北費城貧民窟、非洲落後地區，乃至盧安達等浩劫之地，透過她的藝術讓那生活於社會最底層的人們，重新燃起對生命的希望。

這位以藝術改造貧窮落後地區的生活藝術家，去年（2008）九月應邀前來萬佛聖城，在大殿用解說照片方式，向大家介紹她如何將充滿毒品、垃圾、犯罪率又高的地區，轉化為充滿人文藝術氣息的社區；以及在遭受種族滅絕的盧安達，如何帶領浩劫餘生者，一起將萬人塚改建為安詳莊嚴的國殤紀念墓園，讓亡者與生者都能獲得安慰。同時協助當地老百姓解決日常生活的基本需求，培訓他們的工作技能。

這些經歷過種族大屠殺的盧安達民，令葉蕾蕾深深感受：「大悲之後乃能大慈」；更深刻體會到，大屠殺不只發生在盧安達，也不只發生在猶太人身上，而是根源於人心之中。假如我們貪欲無窮，就會只想要他人物品，那就會彼此爭戰，直到消滅對方為止。

葉蕾蕾深感萬佛聖城的教育方向正是大家需要的，不僅年輕人需要，整個社會乃至全球都需要。本刊將葉蕾蕾這場打動人心的演講內容，重點整理如下，以饗讀者；

Editorial Note: Artist, Lily Yeh, came from Taiwan to study in the U.S. in 1960s. She helped people in a North Philadelphia slum, in poor African communities, even in Rwanda. She inspired those living at the bottom of society in various corners of the world to rekindle their hope for life.

This lifelong artist who has transformed poor communities through art came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in October 2008. Showing a slideshow in Buddha Hall, she shared her experiences of transforming communities troubled by drugs, pollution and crime into communities full of artistic creativity. She also led Rwanda genocide survivors to transform a mass grave site into a serene and adorned national memorial graveyard so that souls of their deceased family members could rest in peace and the pain of the survivors can be released. Lily Yeh pointed out that after the people of those communities got involved in grassroots art, with mural painting and mosaic tiles, their hope for life came back gradually. In the poor communities of Rwanda, Lily Yeh had to start by helping people meet their basic needs and learn vocational skills.

Seeing the aftermath of genocide in Rwanda, Lily Yeh felt that great compassion comes from witnessing great sufferings. Lily also said, "Genocide is not only outside in the Holocaust or in Rwanda; it exists now in all our hearts. If we are full of desire and unceasingly crave for other people's belongings, then we will compete for these resources and further want to eliminate others so that we can take the resources and energy for our own."

Lily Yeh stressed that the educational programs at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas meet the needs not only of young people but of society and the world. Her touching speech follows:

When you go to Rwanda, you must be in touch with what happened in 1994. It was a holocaust; it was a genocide. In this church, ten thousand people were massacred by machetes. The skulls were crushed and cracked open with a great deal of cruelty and piles of bones left. However, most were killed by machetes and farm tools. The person who instigated this incident was the father, the leader of the church. This mother came to me in the

發生於1994年的盧安達大屠殺是非常可怕的。在一個教堂裏有一萬人全部被屠殺，屠殺的方法非常殘忍，有的頭顱被打碎，而讓人覺得人性很黑暗，令人寒心的是，屠殺組織的人是這個教堂的神父！當我到達這個村子的時候，有一個媽媽很著急得跑過來說：「你能夠幫我把這個照片翻新嗎？我的孩子都被殺了，這是他們唯一的遺物。」

我在進行療傷工程的時候，那些人說：「希望妳能夠給我們造一個墳墓。」（因為原先埋葬亡者的地方，看起來像動物的墳，怎麼能夠把親愛的人葬在這裏呢？）並且說：「妳一定要挖地，要把遺骨藏到地裏面。」當時覺得太可怕了，我只是區區一個小女人，萬一骨頭出了事，我擔待不起。可是剛好那時候有一個中國陸橋公司，那些中國的工程師，他們很感動願意來幫助我。

所以我們就從建水泥牆開始，這種牆有高有低，感覺很有音樂的韻律，藉此能慢慢安慰人的心。水泥牆本身是有孔隙性的，因而墳內會變得潮溼，亡者的骨頭也會變軟，於是我想到可以將牆面全部用瓷磚封起來，於是就教那些人如何做瓷磚鑲嵌。可是當地要找瓷磚非常地困難，我們花了很大的工夫，才找到一些破碎的瓷磚。當工作時，我們用想像力一起創造，藉此把美、健康、希望都帶到這個社區裏。每放一個鑲嵌片，就像一個小小的禱告。拿起一個鑲嵌片、用手撫摸、定點就位、上泥、弄平、清洗，大家共同完成每一個步驟，這是一個非常好的療傷方法。使用這種鑲嵌工法，對這種破碎受傷的團體是最恰當的，因為每個人都是破碎不全的。

所以在整個的過程中，是整個社區大家一起共同創作。他們在牆面塗上了紫色，紫色在盧安達代表著悲傷。除了紫色之外也塗上國旗的藍色和黃色，當人們看到了美，就會感到有希望，因此這個墓碑是盧安達國殤墓碑。墓碑上寫道：「我們永遠不會忘記你們是怎麼死的，你們死的像英雄一樣。」

每年的四月七日全國放假，大家聚在一起紀念被屠殺的人們：永遠記得1994年的全國大屠殺，以最深的感情和敬意緬懷亡者。去年就在大悲痛時期，兩天之前的四月五日，我們舉行了一個紀念儀式。把這個墓碑獻給當地的政府，歸他

survivors' village with great urgency. You can look into her eyes and feel the pain and the urgency. "Can you redevelop this photo for me? This is the only thing I have left of my two sons, both of whom were massacred."

When I started the therapy project, those people said, "We hope you can build a grave for us." (The original place where the victims of the massacre were buried looked like an animal grave. How can people bury their loved ones here?) They said, "You must dig a hole and bury the bones back in there." I thought it was a scary task. I am only a woman. What if something happened to the bones? I can't really take responsibility for that. The first time I saw this, I couldn't believe this was the mass grave. My heart sank. I said, "People will never heal to have their beloved ones buried like this, with no mark, no flowers, no beauty, no nothing." The China Bridge Road Construction Company was there. They were touched by the story and were very willing to help me out.

So we dug into the ground and started building the undulating wall that feels like mountains, like waves that soothe the deeply wounded hearts. Because cement was porous, the water came in, the bones began to get soft and that again was totally frightening me. Finally with great effort, I found tiles and taught ten people to make tiles. I realized how appropriate mosaic was in broken places. Because we are all alike, we are incomplete, we are hurt and we are broken, through working together and through our imagination, we recreate hope and joy for the future. When you work with mosaic tiles, you have to place them one by one. Every time you place a tile, it's like a little prayer. Then the whole community came to put the grout, massage it and wash it. I call it a co-creative process. It is a great therapy.

The entire community is created by everyone in the whole process. Not only that, they disowned us in the process. They painted the walls the color purple, which represents mourning. They also painted blue, yellow, green, which are the colors of Rwanda's flag. These colors represent national mourning and national pain. When people see this beautiful place, they will feel hope. This is the national memorial for Rwanda. All mass grave coffins are covered in purple, to remind them of the desperation of the massacre. The inscription says, "We will never forget the 1994 genocide. You died like heroes."

The day of national mourning is April 7th. It is a holiday when all people come together and remember the victims of the massacre. They always remember the massacre in 1994. They pay respect and honor them with deep love and mourning. In 2007, we completed the memorial; we wanted to dedicate it to the government and the local people for safekeeping. Therefore, two

們去保管。有個人名字叫多提，她志願整天都在這墓碑旁守護。因為她的家族一百六十七個人中，只有四個人存活下來。她說：「在這個墓塚旁，就覺得我還是跟家人在一起。」

在每做一個工程之前，都覺得這個工程比我能力及想像都大得多；開始時都不敢做，可是又覺得如果不做的話，就不能夠繼續邁向我生命的路程；而每次來幫我解圍的都是孩子們。記得當我初抵盧安達時，並不熟悉他們的語言，要如何與他們在很短時間內相連上？怎麼樣帶來希望激勵他們？又是孩子們來為我解圍。孩子們出現來歡迎，於是我就把所有啓發我的東西都帶給他們看。那時候有一位老師，他說：「我一定要參加妳的工作。」我就說：「好！你帶著孩子們，讓他們創造。」

那時候在帶孩子們繪畫，顏色並不齊全，沒有關係，我只是把顏色點一點，那些圖案完全是孩子們畫出來的。他們營養不良，沒有牛奶；所以有一個孩子畫一頭歐洲的牛，想要擠出很多的牛奶，所以我就把牛的奶房畫得特大，七個大奶房，就是希望將來可以帶很多牛奶來。在畫畫的過程中，孩子們開始互相交談了；透過顏色，覺得生命開始慢慢的回復了。在做的過程中，他們漸漸地覺得，他們的心、他們的希望，又再度回到他們的身體裏面了。

漸漸地無形中像是創造了一個新社區，當他們看到自己的環境轉化後，開始感到有希望。相對的，在別的方面也可以轉化，而這個轉化的過程，不是外來的，而是從他們自己，最基本的、草根似的一種感覺，對藝術的一種感覺，也是他們的美感。因此他們自己覺得有了尊嚴，有了希望，且有能力達到他們所要的轉化。他們都喜歡足球，所以將此稱之為「足球人，希望之樹。」

我的工作是讓藝術成為一個火把，點燃了每個人心裏的火、每個眾生的佛性。我是一個傳火的人。可是怎麼樣讓這個火種繼續傳下去呢？就是要訓練他們，給他們信心，讓他們用創造力繼續讓火光更明亮。你看！他們現在繼續畫他們的夢想；有汽車、摩托車、聖經和回教寺院。共同畫出多種宗教和諧相處的美麗畫作，是一個美麗的設計。之後我們有個歌唱舞

days before the massacre memorial, we had a joyful celebration. A woman named Dorothy spent most of the time in the memorial. She had 167 people in her family; only four survived. She said, "At this memorial, I feel I am still with my family."

Every time I take on a project, I feel very frightened and intimidated because the project is always bigger than I could have ever imagined. But if I don't do it, I feel that I cannot continue to walk on the path of my life. It is always the children who come to help me in the beginning. When I went there, I was not familiar with their languages nor did I share their experiences. How could I connect with them in a very short time? How could I bring hope and motivate them? Again, the children came and helped me out of the predicament. They welcomed us. So, I brought things that inspired me, to show them. There was an art teacher there. He said, "I will volunteer in your work." I said, "O.K. You take the children and let them create things and make beautiful little drawings."

The process of painting is very easy. I used only a little bit of color. All these pictures are painted by the children. This little cow is so lovely and is painted by a little child. The children's growth is stunted because of malnutrition and they have all kinds of skin diseases, ringworms and so forth. I felt that maybe we could paint our dreams and then we could make our dreams come true. They told us, the European cow produced most milk. So, I painted one with a giant udder with seven tits so that in the future a lot of milk would come to this village. We did not have all the colors, but it was all right. Anybody who wanted to paint could paint: There are no failures, no mistakes. Immediately, there is the sense of joy and togetherness. They told us, when we worked together, when we began to share our experiences; when we saw color and we began to transform, we again gained our human hearts and we gained the strength to move forward

In the whole process, we created a new community invisibly. After they see their external environment has changed, they start to feel hope. There are also other transformations from other places. And this transformation is not imposed from outside nor is it from the West, but instead from themselves. It is like the roots of the grass. It is child-like feelings, feelings toward art and beauty. Therefore, they feel dignified with hope. They now have the ability to reach the transformation they want. They love footballs, I mean, soccer. They call it "Footballers, Tree of Life."

My job is to go through art and simple action to light the innate light in all of us, the Buddha nature in all of us. I am a person who passes on this light. How do you continue this light? You train them, give them the skills so that this light can be sustained and made it even brighter by their own creativity. Look at the beautiful drawings they did: cars, motorcycles, a Bible and a

蹈儀式來慶祝我們的美麗和生命。

經過大屠殺以後的盧安達，滿目瘡痍，要怎麼樣才能夠保存他們的文化？於是我們就創造一個活的博物館；讓每個人都能幫忙保存傳統藝術與現代盧安達藝術。看看這個神奇、美麗的東西，讓我們感覺到精神上的舒適。我每次去的時候，都覺得展覽是一個非常好的工具，可以表達感受，更可以讓他們受到啓發，藉由看到其他人的工作，可以聯想到自己的將來。讓他們不光是看別人的美，更可以看到自己的美。

我把照片帶回盧安達給他們看，還有四百封美國孩子寫給他們的信，讓他們知道他們不是孤單的——雖然在很遠的地方，仍然有人，沒有見過他們的人，關愛著他們；他們是受關懷的。讓他們感到他人的愛心，他們也看到了參觀展覽的觀眾對他們的作品所感到的驚奇。所以，只要畫出我們的夢想，夢想總有一天會成真。現在，他們覺得生命有希望了。

我覺得在此處的療傷工程，很像中國的陰陽，需要為死去的人而做，也需要為活著的人做，如同陰陽相連。不但要心懷亡者，同時也要關懷生者，這裏有許多村莊、小孩，寡婦，這些活著的都是最窮困、最沒有辦法生活的人，政府為他們建置了很簡單的房子。裏面什麼都沒有，沒有廁所，沒有水，沒有電；他們沒有工作，沒有錢。與他們接觸時，可以直覺他們內心是破碎的。一個村子裏，一百多家共用一個水龍頭，有時候水龍頭壞了，還要走兩三里路去取水，生活非常艱難。

水就是生命！如何幫他們得到生命？當地有兩個雨季，沒有人想方法去收集雨水。所以我這次去有一些經費補助，而且義工也教導他們裝置雨水收集器，現在他們可用水洗髮、有乾淨水喝、有水沖馬桶，可以養成好的衛生習慣。最好的就是，這一切都是村子裏的人自己建的。同時有一位工程師來教育他們，讓他們瞭解「有乾淨的水就有健康」。

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mosque. They draw a lot of beautiful things of how religions work together harmoniously. This is a beautiful design. Later, we had a singing and dancing ceremony to celebrate the beauty of our life.

After the genocide in Rwanda, the nation is full of pain and suffering. How do we preserve their culture? We created a living museum and let everyone help preserve the traditions, legacy skills and contemporary Rwanda folk art. Looking at these mysterious and beautiful things refreshes our spirit and keeps us rooted in the earth. Every time I go, I feel exhibition is so important to inspire, stimulate, set an example and dream the future. Therefore, they see beauty not only in others but also within themselves.

So I brought their pictures back to them. In addition, there are 400 children from this country writing personal letters to the Rwandan children to tell them that they are not all alone. Although these people are very far from them, they know they are being loved and being cared about by people who have never seen them. We let them feel loved and cared about. People are intrigued and amazed when they see the exhibition. If we paint our dreams, sometimes our dreams will come true. Now they feel there is hope in their life.

I feel the therapy project I did in Rwanda is very much like the Chinese concept of Yin and Yang because it is done partly for the living and partly for the deceased. It is just like Yin and Yang and connected. Not only should we pay attention to the deceased, but also to the ones who are still alive. There are many villages, children and widows who are most destitute and have no way to make a living. The government built them very simple houses with no facilities at all: no toilet, no electricity; they have no jobs and are penniless. When I met them, I felt that their hearts were broken. In one village, only one faucet is available for one hundred families. If this faucet is broken, they have to walk two or three miles to get water. It is an extremely very difficult life.

Water is our life. How do we help them get this life source? They have two rainy seasons but no one thought about gathering rainwater. So, this time when I went, I got a grant to help them. We have a volunteer who taught them how to install rainwater collectors. Now, they have clean drinking water and water to wash their hair and flush toilets. They can have good hygiene. The best thing is that the villagers built all these themselves. We only had one engineer teaching them. We helped them understand: with safe clean water, there is health. This is the teaching to villagers.

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莊嚴美麗的墓園，平撫生還者傷痛的心。
Beautiful memorial soothes the pains in survivors' hearts.

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我想說的是，我覺得在萬佛城，大家最了解這種作為，當我們進行健康工程，不是為自己，是爲了幫助別人而來當義工，是不自私、不自利的，而這個就像在夜晚的時候把火把點著，可以照亮一切。有許多年青人，希望在他們生命能找到意義，所以每年都有一群人前來盧安達做義工。最開始的時候，只有賈包斯可一個人，就是中心負責人，但是現在有許多許多自願者，還來了很多傑弗遜大學醫學院學生。於是有了各種的活動，來轉化亡者與生者的地方，村民開始整合了，寡婦們也組織起來。他們可以在一起預見未來，同時也將需求告訴我們：他們必須有收入、工作、教育還有醫療設施。

有一位義工想出生產葵花子油的主意，就和政府合作，所以現在在這個村子附近，到處都種了向日葵，以機器來榨向日葵(瓜子)的油之後出售。他最近又收到一筆經費，來包裝這些出售的油品，最後，政府指定這整個區爲葵花子油生產專區。此外，當地有許多完全沒有生活技巧的孤女，於是我們教她們學習縫紉，現在她們都是縫紉高手，可以縫製衣服、襯衫、套衫、皮包等。那些孤女現在可以靠縫製制服維生了。現在我們從事要如何爲村民引進太陽能與電力。

如何創造一個可持續發展的社區？必須是建立於愛、內心、光明和慈悲。當人們要回應我們內心的呼喚時，有一簡單方法可以運用；因爲我們生在這個世上，是有一定的功能和理由，那就是服務他人。所以謝謝您們給我這個機會來分享我卑微的工作。謝謝！

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What I want to say is that people at the City of Ten thousand Buddhas understand this the best. When you have a healthy project that serves the interests of others and not yourself, it's like the flame lighting up in the darkness. There are many people and youth hoping to find meaning in their life. So every year, a group of people will come as volunteers. At the beginning, there was one person visiting Rwanda, John Bosco, the host in the center, and now there are all these volunteers who have come, including medical students from the Jefferson University, to do these projects. Therefore, we have all these activities to transform the living and the deceased. So, the villagers have begun to organize. There is an association of widowers that envisions coming together to plan for their future. They tell us what they need. They need to earn money, make a living, have education and develop a medical clinic.

One of the volunteers figured out a plan for sunflower seed oil production. Now we work with the government. All over the hills you see the beautiful sunflowers growing. They use machines to press the sunflower seeds to get sunflower oil. He just got a grant to package and brand the oil. Finally, the government is allotting the whole district to develop sunflower oil production. Besides this, there are many solitary women who do not have any skills to make a living. So, we taught them sewing. They are fine tailors who sew blouses, shirts, dresses and purses. These women can now make a living by sewing uniforms. Now we are working on how to bring solar energy and electricity into the village.

How do you create a sustainable community? It must be rooted in love, hearts, light and compassion. There is a methodology that can be easily applied by anyone who responds to the call of his/her personal light. We were born on this earth for a specific reason and a function—to serve others. Thank you so much for the opportunity to share this humble work. Thank you.



透過改善，
村民終於可以
喝到潔淨的水。

*After improvement,
villagers finally
have clean drinking
water.*

繪製巨大乳牛，
以滿足對牛奶
的渴望。

*Children painted an
enormous milk cow
to fulfill the cravings
they have for milk.*

