

ARTIST'S STATEMENT (2001)

Leung Mee Ping

My work explores the sense of “ belonging ” and “inner emptiness” that makes up the spatial home.

Grown up in Hong Kong – “ a borrowed place”, the coming and going from a place of living to another and of people that are close to me in my childhood has given me a strong sense of inner roaming.

As I furthered my study of art in Paris, my identity stood out the first time amidst the multicultural background there. I started the search for “ belonging” in my creation. Unique cultural symbols were used to respond to the impact coming from the outside world. I re-wove over thousands used Chinese tea bags to reflect my helpless and anxious inside.

Of course, the dramatic handover of the territory and the progression of the fast changing city began my search into the deepest soul of Hong Kong. I spent two years looking for mailboxes from 100 different locations and recorded the conversations of people having connection with those mailboxes and surrounding sounds. 100 distinct living histories contrasted the “ grand history ” on stages at the time. I did not intent to touch on politics per se but to examine human reality under polities.

Chances have led me to wander even more places, giving me more solid thinking about time-space and the external “vehicle” of being-the human body. Hair and body materials of different races were collected and mixed to form a large of scale installation made up of children shoes. The motif was to obscure the boundary between individual / public, art / life. I believe that every individual lives in another individual. So my work is me, and the universal me.

Large of scale human materials collection is somewhat similar to the work of an anthropologist. But visual language arrangement more accurately revealed the invisible true color instead of the fragmented reality. Collected items carried distinctive features and memories, and so, I myself was not the only one in this creative process; the works extended themselves to the other selves outside the venue.

As a Hong Kong – rooted artist, it is only natural for my creation to start with individuality, and onto the issue of identity, and then the memory and struggle within family and society, and finally the turmoil on the earth. These elements come into my works as my life and cultural background transform and made my search of the universal meaning of “ belonging”.

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