

ARTIST'S STATEMENT (1990's)

Jerry Kwan

During the economic down fall of the 90's, lots of people lost their jobs and in turn lost their rented homes because of financial difficulties. Many people forces to live in the street, some with families. In winter, cold weather drove them to go underground. They made use of the Metro Trains as sleeping quarters because there were heating in there. At the beginning of the crisis, passengers were endured with them. But soon, the numbers of homeless were enlarging, and more compartments in the trains were seized, and some of the untidy ones produced bad smells. Crime began to set in too. Riding the subway trains at night have become nightmare.

In 1994, I have financial difficulties, and came very close to be one of them. My feeling about the homeless was truly real. For a period of time, I wandered around places to look for clues for the shaping of my works. As I touring in the streets and subways, I found places where could make a shelter, some obscure subway stations where could take a snap. I even saw the possibilities of making dark tunnels. All these scenes I had encountered had become the source of my paintings.

The 1995 series were mostly about underground visions. In 1996, I changed my focuses. After the police had cleaned up the Metro lines, the subways became less interesting. I went to depict the streets at night. But both series of works were set to the same sentimental outlook.

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