

ARTIST'S STATEMENT (2004)

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Over the years Hong Kong has been judged as a place 'lacking in social responsibility with a weak civic mind and ideology, individualistic and deprived of a proud legacy, be it nationalistic, colonial or cultural'. These statements are poignant and arouse my interest to re-examine Hong Kong's historical background; to assess the core problems of its value systems and identify positive elements, which have surfaced during the process of development in this cosmopolitan city.

Writers of different disciplines have published many articles concerning Hong Kong's culture and identity. My present research project asserts that artists can also make an important contribution to this debate. 'Has Hong Kong, seven years after the 1997 hand-over, attained an independent cultural identity, free from the influence of colonial rule or are we merely a group of pluralistic cultures with an ostentatious Western lifestyle? Are we still a society lacking in cultural depth and apolitical?' Through an examination of history and studying different phenomena within our current society, I aim to get a research outcome, which will form a construct of our consciousness and a clearer understanding of the formation of identity and culture. This will lead to the development of a new series of narrative paintings that express these aspects of the Hong Kong story.

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