

I see life like a painting. My canvases are prayers and my brushes are incense.

I pray that all beings are at ease, that love will flow endlessly in the world, and that individuals and the universe are mutually beneficial.

Life is limited, but love is instead of inexhaustible change to endless.

— Sophie Chang

Organizer |  臺南市美術館 TAINAN ART MUSEUM | Curator | Chuang Tong-Chiao

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愛·無盡 | 張淑芬個展  
Boundless Love  
Solo Exhibition of Sophie Chang

2020/09/30 > 11/29  
[WED] [SUN]

Gallery P, Building 2, Tainan Art Museum



Art, the refined product of human spiritual civilization, reflects the movement of the mind and spirit. Individual works of art may challenge the outer limits of our visual perception, or may be an outpouring of the heart and mind after considered reflection. But all artistic exploration seeks to probe the nature of truth, beauty, and goodness, in the outer world and our inner selves. Social responsibility, in the artist and in art itself, is a concern for contemporary artists. Through their exploration of specific issues and their multi-media and cross-disciplinary approach, and by testing the boundaries of art and the relationship between art and society, they bring art closer to life. Artists can then dialogue with society, generate connections, and create new space for discussion of issues that have reached an impasse in society. By creating new platforms for dialogue and even influencing public policy, they achieve their goal of substantive change, even as they pose the classic questions about "truth, beauty, and goodness" to our contemporary society.

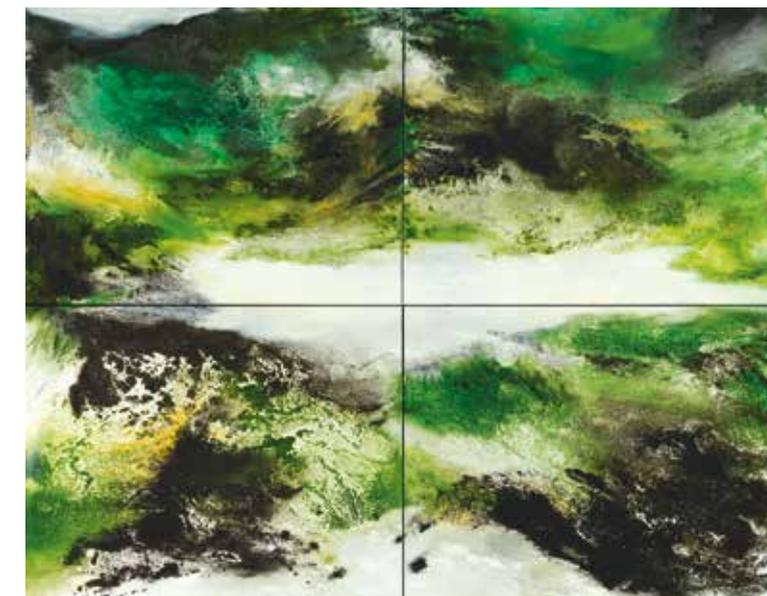
In this context, artist Sophie Chang is a special case. Unlike contemporary artists for whom "art is a method" for helping society, she had engaged in social welfare work for many years prior to becoming a professional artist, facing even more directly the needs of the disadvantaged in society. She believes that the insights gained from carrying out her charity work is a great source of energy driving her art. That is, when thinking creatively, she consciously transforms her experience with these activities into creative meaning and creative experience; the process of helping the disadvantaged in society influences her creativity and her outlook on life.

Chang's interests first drew her to painting in 2006, and she has been involved in charity work since 2009. As she leads the TSMC Charity Foundation, she studies the circumstances of each individual case and follows up afterwards, ensuring that both the good will and the resources of the Foundation are used effectively. Chang also practices Buddhist meditation and personal cultivation, learning to face life calmly, to deal with attachment and with letting go, to change her thinking, and to practice tolerance. The internationally acclaimed Taiwanese artist Ju Ming once said, "Art is exactly a kind of personal cultivation." What makes Sophie Chang's creative outlook and her creative spirit unique, both as artist and as philanthropist? How can her life experience

《Mist in the Deep》 Oil on canvas, 2017, 116.5 x 91 cm, Detail

and her journey inspire those who view her art? This exhibition focuses on Chang's work during the period from 2016 to 2020 and includes 15 outstanding works. Through them we attempt to discover how, in the course of her charity work and her personal cultivation, she has transformed her artistic thinking and her life experience into the products of her creative experience.

The Tainan Art Museum, as a 21st century museum for all citizens, hopes that everyone will feel the museum is close to them, a part of their lives. In March 2020, the museum curated the exhibition Colorful Talents of Medical Professions, featuring the work of physician-artists, to show how physicians' feelings about life might differ from those of ordinary artists. It is our hope that viewers from many different fields can come to the museum and be moved in their own way. It is in this context that Boundless Love: A Sophie Chang Solo Exhibition delves into the special life experiences and creative insights of this artist. It explores how her role as a philanthropist has influenced her creative work, with the goal of inspiring both artists and the general public to understand and engage charity work, and further, to promote education in the arts and humanities.



《Green Peaks》 Oil on canvas, 2017, 112 x 145 cm (each) x 4