CLAYLABORATION
CONTEMPORARY
CERAMIC ART
EXHIBITION

Yokky Wong
Revealing Life at the Ceramic Studio

Going by her feelings and memories, ceramic artist Yokky Wong replicates with clay the ceramic studio that she spends all her days in. Each and every one of the objects on display is made out of clay. Browsing through the different kinds of ceramic objects here, you can almost feel into the artist's day to day life and her private world. To Yokky, this studio replica is like a 3D diary. It is a record of her past, a place brimming with memories.

Dialogue between clay and words

What makes this ceramic art exhibition special is the involvement and participation of creative partners. Wordsmith Lee Wai-yee and designer Kevin Tang are Yokky's friend and student respectively. They are also her partners in this exhibition. The subject of "feelings and memories" struck a chord with all three of them. In particular, Lee Wai-yee sees our memories as something that is usually hidden from the surface, but you never know when or why they will arise at some point. Our memories, moreover, are selective. Sometimes we will remember certain things or emotions but forget about the others. The mystery behind all this makes it a rich source of creative inspiration. Although each member of the group understands the topic differently, everyone is approaching this with a relaxed attitude. They hope to exchange viewpoints, stimulate deeper thinking, and present the results to the audience in a familiar medium. Feelings and memories tend to seem fleeting and insubstantial, so it is best to subtly express these abstract concepts with words and simple imagery while leaving room for our imagination. How poetic this is!
在這個電子年代，很多東西都數據化，什麼都越進器去量度，但感覺呢？記憶呢？要怎麼量度？在我們的大腦中，有多少事情能清楚無誤地記得呢？還是附加了感情、想像力或是個人的主觀願望，把它們集合起來，成為記憶。這些記憶，跟現實有差距嗎？

生活中大部分時間都在陶藝工作室度過，當中蘊含著我的過去和記憶，而以記憶為本，感覺先行，是我的生活態度。憑感覺與記憶重現我日常的空間，我的陶藝工作室，在工作室日日夜夜地生活著，牆壁上的架放滿七七八糟的東西，早期的作品、功課、老師和朋友贈送的，從駐師創作帶來的書籍、實驗品、教材、學生留下的作品，未完成的、待乾的、待燒的，已燒好等待取的，日復日地轉動，形成一道流動的風景。還有拉坯、工作台、工具，定格成了物件，既像實體，又像幻影，是記憶中的幻想，還是真實的狀態？

“記憶的本質，是破壞，而不是保留。能記著的，讓你誤以為那是全部；其實沒有記住的，卻更多。”

Those who have learned pottery would know that clay has memory too. A piece of bended slab, even if it has been straightened, would become curved again after firing. It remembers its curved form and refuses to forget. And one can even see from the finished product the potter’s state of mind when he or she was working on it. This may sound abstract but that is what it is!

In this electronic age, many things are digitalized and everything is quantified with an instrument. But how about feelings and memories? How do we measure these? How much from our memories is totally clear and accurate? Or are our memories an amalgamation of other additives such as emotion, imagination, or wishful thinking? Are there discrepancies between these memories and reality?

I have spent the larger part of my life in making ceramic work, which embodies my past and my memories. My approach to life is one that is based on memories with feelings as my prime mover. I go about my business based on feelings and memories; my ceramic studio, my time (by day and by night) spent in it, the disorderly mess spilling over from the racks on the wall; early pieces, assignments, presents from teachers and friends, pieces created while being resident artist, experimental pieces and teaching materials, and pieces left unclaimed by students, unfinished pieces, pieces drying, pieces waiting to be fired, and fired pieces waiting to be claimed. The scene changes from day to day, creating an ever-changing landscape. There is also the throwing wheel, work bench and tools, which seem to be turning into ceramic pieces themselves which look real and imagined at the same time. Are they imaginations in my memories, or are they part of reality?

“Memories are essentially about what is destroyed and not what is preserved. What you can remember deludes you into thinking that is all there is, but in fact what you cannot remember is a lot more.”

Yokky Wong

Yokky Wong first studied ceramics with Mr. Chan Chung-kong in 1987. After being awarded with a Higher Certificate in Studio Ceramics by the Hong Kong Polytechnic in 1991, Yokky further obtained a Master of Fine Arts from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2011. She is interested in using everyday subjects as a source of inspiration for her artworks and strongly believes in promoting the use of ceramics in our daily lives.