

我看VAS

翻閱着VAS的歷史與眾多會員的資歷，回顧他們所作的一切及他們今天在香港的位置，令我有着深深的感受。

早期的香港，創作環境並不如現在，要從事全職藝術創作絕非易事，而VAS的會員裏有很多是非學院派的。試想像當年這群要上班工作，來自不同職業和工作環境的伙子，在藝術範疇裡，他們追求的相信絕對不是一種工餘的興趣。如果沒有這種熱誠和投入，怎可以如此堅持？

各人自成風格，再回頭看各人之創作路向，這一切一切都有跡可尋，今天他們都是藝壇的中堅份子，佔有重要位置，是絕非偶然。這些資深的會員，都不約而同地在推動藝術方面作出不同層面的貢獻。

對於一個會的成長和延續，吸納會員是必然的。長久以來，VAS招收會員不多，因會內對新會員加入，有一套頗為嚴格的規則。這裡有人或許覺得有點保守，但這是對「質」而不是對「量」的要求所致。

雖然VAS並不是唯一資深藝術團體，然而在一個團體裡，有着這樣的資歷，同時包含着各種不同的視覺藝術形式：如繪畫、雕塑、水墨、版畫、陶瓷、攝影、裝置及行為藝術，可以這樣的並存着、大家長時間走在一起的，或許只有VAS了。

這種特殊性、包容性、融合、開放；卻又嚴謹、投入和認真，這種種，可能是所謂的「VAS精神」。

創會的會員往往提起：

「當年寂寂無名，在大會堂外牆的一角，開始了VAS的第一個展覽。」

35年後的今天，視覺藝術協會再次在大會堂展出，甚具歷史意義，而這外牆的一角足以見證了VAS 35年的轉變。

有感於VAS的發展和背景，了解到前輩所作的一切，作為現任會長的我，打從被選為會長的一天開始，心裡不禁產生一種強烈的責任感，希望VAS精神延續下去，回饋社會。

最後，寄語新進和有心投入藝術的人，VAS可視作一面鏡子，反映着不只是藝術的表象——藝術是要真誠、投入與及堅持。

主席兼籌委

李展輝

二〇〇八年正月初八寒夜於火炭

VAS in My Eyes

Reading the history of VAS and the profiles of its members, and reviewing their past achievements and their role in Hong Kong today, I felt a growing admiration for them.

Many years ago in Hong Kong, when favourable conditions for artistic creation were limited, it was not easy to work as a full-time artist. Among the early members of VAS, many were not art institute graduates. They had to work during the day, in different job fields and working environments. It can be imagined that what they chased after in the world of art was more than just a pastime. How could it be possible for them to remain so persistent, if they were not both passionate and devoted?

They all have their own styles. If you trace their artistic careers, you will easily identify the development of each approach. Today these veteran members have become pillars of the local arts scene, and it's not by chance. They have all contributed hugely to the promotion of local arts in various respects.

New members are necessary for the growth and continuity of a society. However VAS has recruited a relatively small number of new members for a long time, because it has a set of rather strict and demanding rules of recruitment. Some people may think that it is too conservative, but I would say it is quality rather than quantity that it values.

Although VAS is not the only art group with a long history, it is the only one with a long history that encompasses such a wide range of visual art forms, including Chinese and western paintings, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, photography, installation and behavioural art. It is unique in the sense that all these different forms of art co-exist and have developed hand in hand for such a long time as one single community.

This kind of uniqueness, embrace, integration and openness, together with its strictness, devotion and sincerity, are probably what's called the "VAS Spirit".

This expression is often heard from the founding members of the Society:

"We were nobody in the very beginning when we held the first VAS exhibition
in a corner outside Hong Kong City Hall."

Today, after 35 years and with historical significance, VAS held an exhibition at Hong Kong City Hall again. The same exterior wall bears witness to the evolution of VAS over those 35 years.

The history and evolution of VAS, as well as the achievements of its senior members, have fostered a strong sense of responsibility in my mind, and as the present President, I have felt this responsibility since the first day of my appointment. I wish to pass on the VAS Spirit, thereby contributing to the Society.

Lastly, I wish to say a few words to all newcomers and those who prepare to devote themselves to art: VAS is like a mirror, which reflects not only the appearance of art but also the sincerity, devotion and persistence required.

Danny Lee

President and Organising Committee Member

A chilly night at Fotan, the 8th day of the Lunar New Year

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