

簡

介

七、八十年代長大的小孩，一定對一款經典練習簿「Exercise Book」滿有回憶。這款練習簿封底印有九因歌和A至Z廿六個英文字母，它不但是上課時抄寫生字、小息時與鄰坐同學玩「天下太平」的恩物，對於藝術家區凱琳而言，這種別緻的練習簿是她愛用來記下生活點滴的精品。無論是作畫的靈感、零碎的作品草圖、待辦事項提示，以及她對身邊事物的觸感等等……全都記錄在簿裡，是她私人生活的手記和圖畫冊。

在賽馬會體藝中學七年的藝術訓練，奠下了區凱琳日後專注向繪畫媒介發展的穩固基礎。隨後她進入香港中文大學藝術系繼續進行藝術及繪畫訓練。當身邊友儕投向以概念為先、實驗為主的創作方向時，區凱琳無疑是本地少數全力發展純繪畫創作的新一代藝術家。對於她的創作，過往曾有如此評論：她的作品並不執著於具像或抽象的固定表達模式，反之然，她對繪畫技巧、作品用色及題材上的探索重未間斷。區凱琳早期的作品《碎末》系列(圖1)，取材自鉛筆屑，將之抽象化；《伊甸園》(圖2)、《雨林》(圖3)及《與巨人對話》(圖4)則著重用色及畫面肌理的處理多於具像的表達。至於從《擦拭》(圖5)、《一瞥藍色花兒 / 巨人消失了》(圖6)、《我的學習(一)》(圖7)之中，更可看到區凱琳運用幾何色塊和零碎的筆觸，逐漸趨向抽象的表現手法，替作品營造一份寧靜溫婉的感覺。

同樣運用大面積的色塊作畫，區凱琳在二零零三年至二零零四年間創作一系列名為《備忘》(圖8)的作品，給予觀者一份夢幻般的細膩感覺。在粉色的畫面上，她用鉛筆像小學生練字般重覆繪畫細小的圖案。這些細小圖案如螺絲、小屋和裙子既是印記了她當時思緒的視覺符號；亦是她渴望看見自身在畫布上留下的時間痕跡。旁人或許無法輕易從區凱琳的畫中找到合理的言語解釋或明確的理念脈絡，但這正是她的企圖：繪畫是給自己的自白，她給觀者的只不過是一幅單純的圖畫而已。

在「甜言蜜語」展覽裡，區凱琳進一步將「繪畫 = 備忘錄」這概念淋漓地發揮。受元趙孟頫妻管道昇的《我儂詞》觸動下，區凱琳創作了一系列描寫甜蜜愛情的小品，畫中的各式圖象，無論是人與物，均表現了生活裡平淡但親暱的細碎片段。畫中雙雙對對的牙刷(圖9)、拖鞋(圖10)、手提電話(圖11)、象徵愛情信物的印花手帕、愛侶間虛寒問暖的綿綿情話、熱戀中彼此間的甜美承諾(圖12)……都是區凱琳對甜蜜愛情的玩味與嚮往。然而，甜蜜往往出現在回味的狀態下，它存在於將逝與追溯之間，滲溢出絲絲苦澀，畫面上呈現的甜蜜景象可能是現實的境況，也可以是逝去的記憶，更可能純然是內心的冀盼……真實、回憶與憧憬之間已變得模糊難辨。區凱琳藉著繪畫的過程回憶生活的經歷、追求內心的渴望、惦記美好的事物、眷戀已逝的佳景良辰……在這種委婉縈繞的心境中，快樂與傷痛的召喚處於一線間，彷彿希望從微弱的刺痛中感受自身存在的氣息，完成自我治療的目的。

將美好凝固

二千零五年七月，女孩給我說的故事：

我們相隔著高高的牆。

為了逃避，我曾小心翼翼地，將每一塊磚，疊好。

我們相隔著高高的牆，我不小心的一瞥，牆就塌下了一半。

牆塌了，我連忙修整，抱著沈重的每一塊磚，我忍不住再看了你一眼……

我看見，眼裡的牆，要隨著你的身影，全倒下了。

無論在筆記簿裡畫畫公仔，記下一些瑣事感觸，又或是在畫布上繪畫，對我而言，似乎都是一種自我治療的活動。自我治療，意思是讓自己的心神，在書寫或繪畫之時間中，排除現世的苦惱，並得到了愉悅、安寧和滿足的時刻。總是渴望，能夠在畫筆起落之間，看著畫面的時候，我會泛起一絲絲微笑，就像個帶著新玩具回家的小孩。

有時候，在這個微笑中，我甚至以為自己正藏身於一個純粹的私人領域。在那兒，我抵擋住時間的流逝，我用自己的方式一再回味種種不再存在的美好東西。這樣，令我想起有人定會發問，假如美好的東西並不存在，那再稱得上是美好？

甜蜜，曾經真實卻轉瞬消逝，保存它，它仍然甜美嗎？可是，我真有能力，將事情都想得很美好。回味，是我要再去經歷，再傾聽，再細看，要為所見所聞建一座堡壘，讓自己或朋友，在當中自得其樂，自我陶醉，容許自己忘掉當下的責任。即使你或我真正倚靠的，只有自己的回憶和憧憬，亦不必再因此而懼怕。

區凱琳

二零零六年八月

Artist's Statement

Crystallising the beautiful things in life

In July 2005, a girl told me a story:

We were separated by a high wall.

I stacked up the bricks carefully, one by one, because I wanted to hide.

We were separated by a high wall. But one unexpected glance from me sent half of the wall tumbling down. The wall had collapsed! I immediately set about to fix it.

Carrying each and every heavy brick, I couldn't help glancing at you one more time...and I saw, the wall in my eyes completely collapsed, together with your silhouette.

To me drawing pictures in a notebook, jotting down everyday happenings and feelings, or painting on a canvas are all exercises in self-healing. Self-healing in the sense that it allows my mind to concentrate on writing or drawing, forgetting all worldly troubles, thereby gaining happiness, peace and self-contentment. I always hope that I can smile when I am working with my brushes or looking at my paintings, the way a child smiles when he brings a new toy home.

Sometimes, I feel that I could conjure up a truly private world for myself with that smile. In this world, the passage of time has no sway, and I can savour and cherish again all the beautiful things I once owned or experienced, even though people may wonder, when these things of beauty no longer exist, can they still be so described?

Can that sweetness, once so real, though transient, be preserved? And once preserved, can it still retain its original nectar? But really, I do have the ability to conjure up beautiful images and sweet memories. Reminiscence means experiencing, listening and relishing these memories, and to encase them within a castle, so I and my friends can bury ourselves in utter bliss and abandonment, in total oblivion of all our responsibilities and travails of the moment...even though all we can lean on are but memories and dreams, we have no fear, and we shall not be afraid.

Au Hoi-lam

August, 2006

Notes of Works

我儂詞

我儂詞 元 • 管道昇

你儂我儂
忒煞情多
情多處
熱如火
把一塊泥
捻一個你
塑一個我
將咱兩個一齊打破
用水調和
再捻一個你
再塑一個我
我泥中有你
你泥中有我
我與你生同一個衾
死同一個槨

衾

作品中的一些句子，改寫自胡蘭成的《今生今世》中〈民國女子〉一節，胡蘭成記述張愛玲送給他的照相背後所寫有的字：「見了他，她變得很低很低，低到塵埃裡，但她心裡是歡喜的，從塵埃裡開出花來」。

A Poem of You and I

A Poem of You and I Yuan Dynasty • Guan Daosheng

You and I
Are filled with so much love!
Where love is the deepest,
It's hot like fire.
With a lump of clay,
Let's mould a figure of you,
And a figure of me
Then break them both,
And mix them with water.
Again, mold a figure of you,
And a figure of me.
There is me in you,
And there is you in me.
You and I will share the same quilt in our lives,
And the same coffin when we die.

Quilt

Certain sentences in this piece of work are adapted from the "Minguo Lady" chapter of *This Life, These Times* by Hu Lancheng. Hu wrote that some words were written on the back of a photograph given to him by Eileen Chang, which said, "after meeting him, she began to dwindle, and dwindle, and finally settle in the dust. However, she was happy in her heart, and a flower blossomed from the dust."

Notes of Works

香煙

「讓這口煙跳昇 我身軀下沉」，
來自林夕的〈暗湧〉，王菲主唱。

Cigarette

"Let that puff of smoke rise, while my body sinks", from Invisible Waves, lyrics written by Lin Xi and sung by Faye Wong.

沙發

春思 元 • 趙孟頫

春柳黃如鵝 春風揚綠波
美人在何許 忽若阻山阿
攀條弄白日 常恐歲蹉跎
懷思鬱不舒 佳期將奈何
良辰難驟得 臨風空浩歌

—— 趙孟頫《松雪齋文集》

Sofa

Spring Memories Yuan Dynasty • Zhao Mengfu

Spring willows, yellow as goose hair,
Spring wind is blowing green ripples,
Where is my beauty? All of a sudden,
A bend in a mountain range stands between us.
Killing the day by fondling tree branches,
I worry that I am wasting my time.
Filled with memories, my heart can't breathe.
When, then, will the beautiful date come?
A golden moment, always ephemeral, is difficult to catch.
The wind is blowing, I can only sing aloud to the empty air.

- Song Xue Zhi Wen Za by Zhao Mengfu

「誰在我未全醒時 靜靜的親親我」，
來自林振強的〈愛不完〉，劉德華主唱。

"Who kissed me quietly while I was not fully awake...", from Neverending Love, lyrics written by Richard Lam and sung by Andy Lau.