



Agnes Lau

port-
folio
-2025

Hello....



My name is **lau pik yoke**,
and people call me
agnes.

I was born in Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia, in 1990.

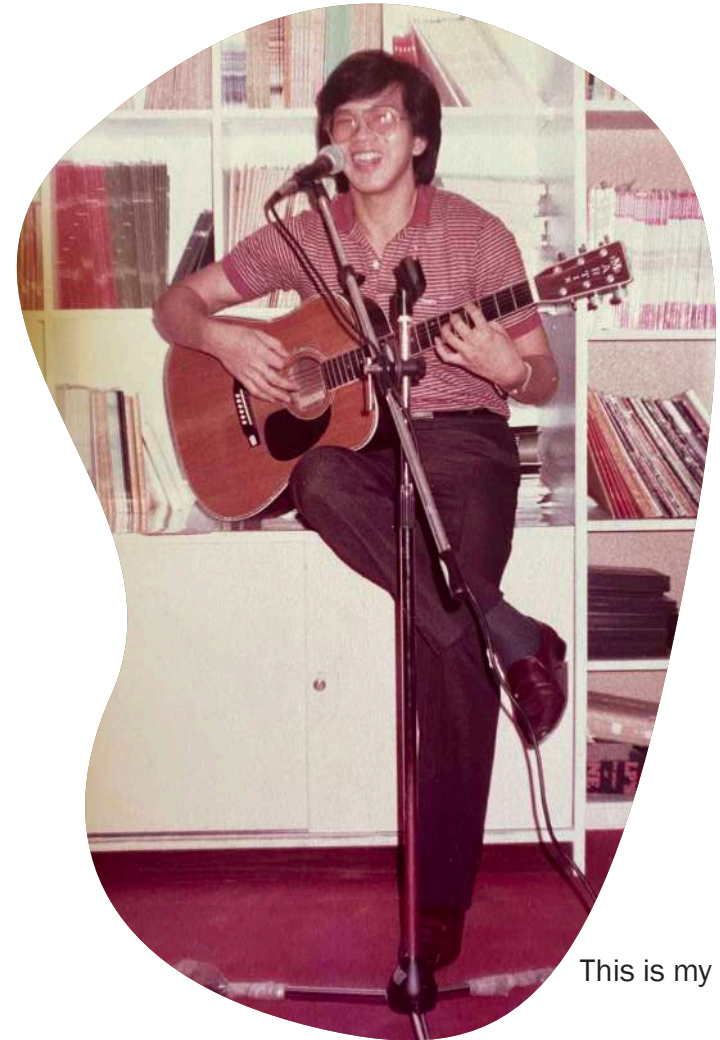


Little intro about me....

I.... grew up in a family
with an artistic background.

My dad has always involved in creative fields:
In music, he plays musical instruments like
the organ, drums, guitar and flute;
In the arts, he's a designer, radio jingle and
TV commercial producer, and master of ceremonies.

Those were his earlier days.
Now, he is deeply involved in spiritual practices.



This is my dad.

My mom played the piano and taught in a nursery before becoming a full-time housewife when she had me.

Her artistic journey never stopped, she bakes a lot (creatively)... for us!

And this is my mom.



And that's how my interest in the Arts was encouraged. When I was younger, I was sent to piano and art classes which nurtured my creativity further.



Little agnes.

My art journey began...



The college I went into.

My formal education in the arts began with these:

Diploma in Fine Art

Dasein Academy of Art, 2013 - 2015

CGPA: 3.52

Achievements

- . Outstanding Achievement Award of year 2015 graduates
- . Top Student Award in 2015
- . Top Student Award in 2014
- . Top Student Award in 2013

Studies include

- . Drawing
- . Painting
- . Print Making
- . Sculpture
- . Installation

Diploma in Graphic Design

Dasein Academy of Art, 2008 - 2011

CGPA: 3.08

Achievements

- . Top Student Award in 2011
- . Top Student Award in 2010

Studies include

- . Typography
- . Corporate Identity Design
- . Concept Writing
- . Editorial Design
- . Packaging Design
- . User Interface Design
- . Art Direction
- . Creative Advertising

During college....

I realized that I have always enjoyed challenging myself to the extreme while working on assignments. I'm drawn to activities that require time, patience, and attention to detail.



Working on the work 'Bowl of paddy'



Bowl of paddy

2013

Colour woodcut on paper

34 x 34 cm

It's either focusing on the smallest details or achieving something on a grand scale (quantity).

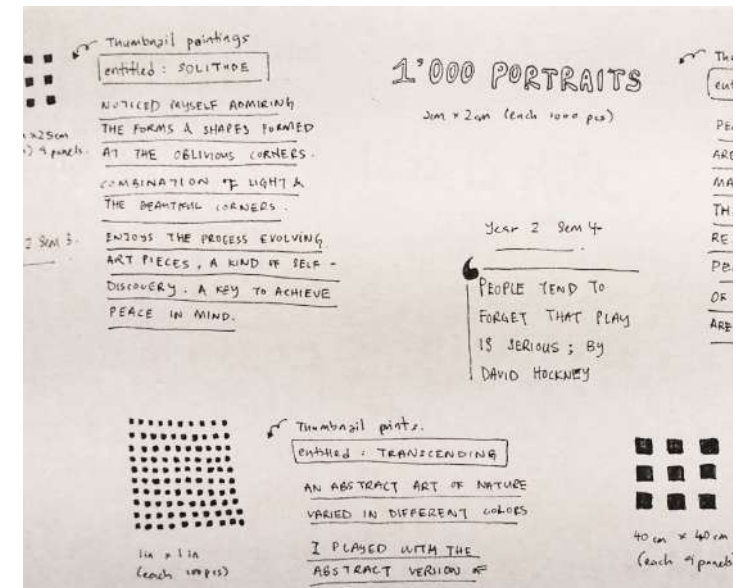


Art-Fun Project.. Mini paper sculptures made to compete with friends, see who made the smallest.

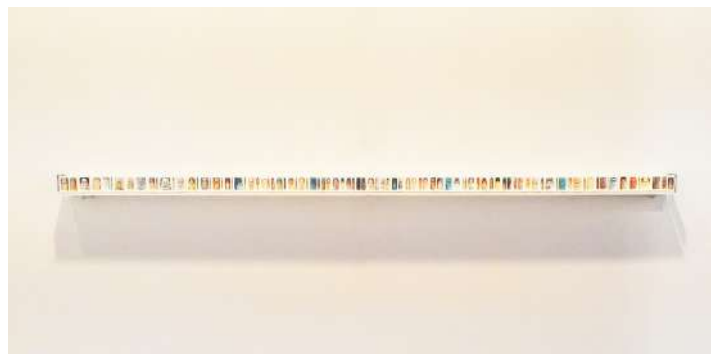


Artist inspiration: Wolfgang Laib

I find his words interesting, "For me, the sky is more important than trying to make a painting that is a symbol for the sky," in an article I read. This idea resonates with the interplay between the symbolic and the real. I was also motivated by his art-making process, which involves gathering, sorting, associating, and patterning. This approach aligns with the concept of the action of no-action (wu-wei).



Sketches from my sketchbook.. Most ideas were related to whole numbers like 10.. 100.. 1000.. or.... to work on tiny thumbnail pieces as 1 work.



People around me I
 2014
 Combined print on 220g Cottage
 Premium White Paper
 3.5 x 101 x 4 cm



People around me I
 close up



People around me II (set of 1000)
 2014
 Combined print on 220g Cottage
 Premium White Paper
 2 x 2 cm each



People around me II
 close up

Artwork Rationale

A printmaking project to document the people around me – some of whom remain vivid in my memory, while others have become blurred over time. 'People around me I' has 100 faces created in a book format, and 'People around me II' has 1000 faces installed on wall.

The process of collecting and re-visualizing portraits of these individuals created a record, revealing who stands clear and who has faded in my recollections.

The amusing part of being able to accomplish these challenges is my biggest satisfaction. But, the more I do, the more I find myself digging deeper to uncover the true essence of my interest.



Artist inspiration: Cui Fei

It's fascinating to see the composition of a manuscript formed from elements of nature, symbolizing the voiceless messages it conveys. I was inspired by her discovery that materials found in nature can carry such profound and inspiring messages. It feels so naïve, yet undeniably original.

Digging deeper...

Having grown up in a busy city, as the world is developing and getting advance in technologies, everything moves in speed.

Many times, I find myself speaking rapidly, as if I'm constantly in a rush.

Everything about me feels fast-paced.



Artist inspiration: Onishi Yasuaki

I see his process of creating art pieces as a form of meditation. It's fascinating how he uses simple materials to produce such beautiful and incredible works of art—simple in terms of colors, forms, and shapes. His skillful use of positive and negative spaces is truly remarkable.

And, through art making processes (quantity-based) that I've been enjoying, I discovered that I could slow down my pace, reflect and quiet the chaotic state of my mind.



One at a time; tear and roll

2014

Performance

01:00:00



One at a time; tear and roll

2014

Tissue and plastic bottles with cover

Artwork Rationale

The process:

Grab a tissue;

Tear about 0.5cm²;

Roll and squeeze;

Keep into a bottle.

I find it therapeutic when I began tearing tissue paper and compressing it into small bits. Subconsciously, the act of compressing felt like a way to release feelings of anxiety, restlessness and nervousness. At the same time, it helped to enhance my self-awareness and build self-confidence.

My love for nature and the pursuit of peace of mind has then grown tremendously. I've always been fascinated by how the process of making art and looking at nature help quiet my chaotic thoughts, which led me to create pieces that involve repetitive actions and elements of nature, all in search of balance in this impermanent and imperfect world.

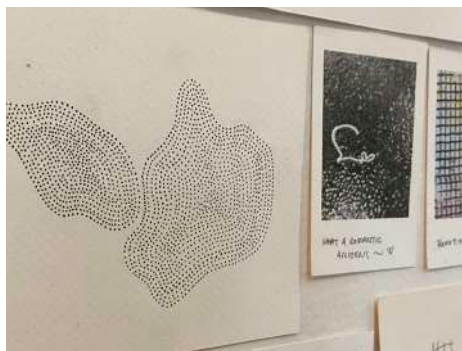


Solitude (set of 9)
2013
Oil on canvas
20 x 20 cm each

Artwork Rationale

The morning sunrise that awakens me every day has sparked my excitement to work on something related to light. I often find myself admiring the shapes and forms created in the unnoticed corners when I travel. I wanted to combine light with these beautifully overlooked corners into art, while also learning to approach the process from a perspective of solitude and focus.

I truly enjoyed the evolution of this art piece – it became a journey of self-discovery. These experiences helped me understand myself better. I suppose that's how solitude came about for me. It's the key to achieving peace of mind.



Sketches from my sketchbook.



A walk into nature I (set of 100)

2014

Oil and ink on wood

12 x 12 cm each

Artwork Rationale

A walk into nature series..

I often take walks in nature whenever I have free time, looking at random corners, focusing mainly on organic shapes like plants, light and shadows, water, and more. Through this connection with nature, I find myself able to ground my consciousness in the present – returning to a quiet space of solitude where I can contemplate, slow my pace, and observe the world around me. I select and focus on each image I've taken, making adjustments such as zooming in, cropping and blurring. Next, I paint my inspiration from the images, adding random dots to them. This entire process is repeated with all the selected images, allowing me to bring my awareness back to the present moment, mirroring the concept of mindfulness.



A walk into nature I

close up

Artwork Rationale

Trace of life series..

I found the forms of the bitten holes on leaves fascinating, even though they represent deformation. Being attentive to the imperfections of the leaves allowed me to embrace the concept of Wabi-Sabi, learning to accept the natural processes of decay and death in life.

The act of creating art through this lens reflects the passage of time and embodies the concept of mindfulness. By tracing and burning the bitten holes (evidence of both growth and decay) I engaged in a form of reflection on how we often perceive and value the things around us.



Inspiration from bitten holes on leaves, leaving an imperfection to nature but also an evidence of life.



Trace of life II (set of 6)

2015

Burnt marks on Chinese rice paper, acrylic stick, and fishing thread
52 x 46 cm each



Trace of life II

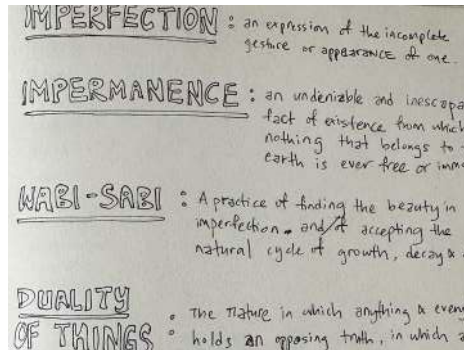
close up

Artwork Rationale

Trace of life series..

I found the forms of the bitten holes on leaves fascinating, even though they represent deformation. Being attentive to the imperfections of the leaves allowed me to embrace the concept of Wabi-Sabi, learning to accept the natural processes of decay and death in life.

The act of selecting deformed leaves reflects a chance encounter and the acceptance of things as they are. This process prompted me to reflect on how we perceive the world, by tracing and reversing the positive and negative spaces of the bitten holes, I sought to deepen my understanding of impermanence in life.



Notes from my sketchbook.



Smoke-firing process.



Trace of life XII

2016

Smoke-fired clay (1100 °c), industrial glue, paint and varnish on MDF board
91.5 x 91.5 cm each



Trace of life I

close up



Tracing of crumpled dead leaves.



Her 2018 Diary (set of 365)

2019

Synthetical print on Chinese rice paper and pin

9 x 6 cm each

Artwork Rationale

I began documenting crumpled dead leaves collected daily from the residential taman where I live, over the course of a year (2018). To me, these dead leaves serve as tangible evidence of growth and decay – a part of Her (Mother Nature's) daily diary.

Encountering these symbols of impermanence, I collected the crumpled dead leaves, traced them, and transferred their forms onto Chinese rice paper.

Each leaf represents both the life and the end of a leaf – a 365-days diary of leaves.



Her 2018 Diary

close up

Repetition as my modus operandi....

The way I approach my art-making is similar to a computer program, but with an imperfect, human touch. I create a formula or set of rules and follow them until the process ends, observing what emerges, even if it means building several layers on the same canvas.



Your time starts now (close up)

2018

Pencil on paper

44.5 x 32.5 cm

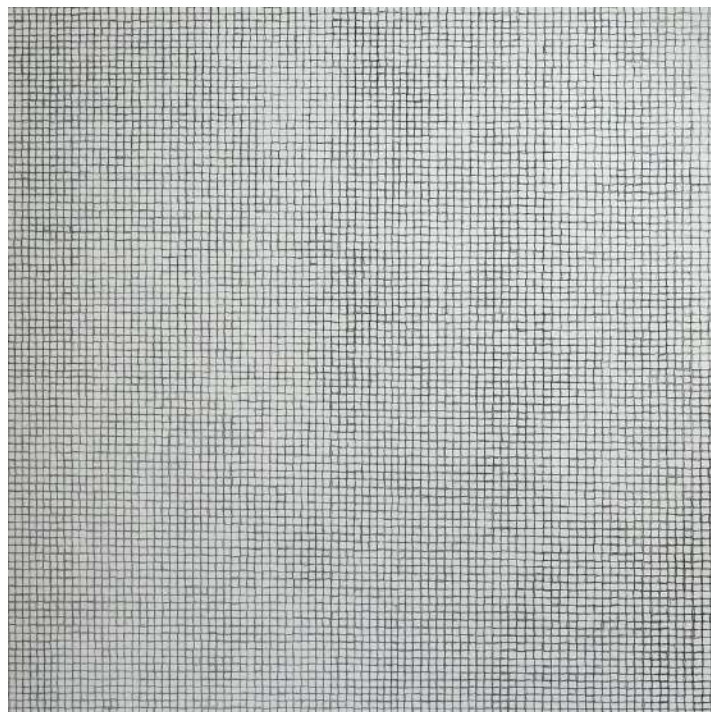


24.5cm Column width vertical lines (close up)

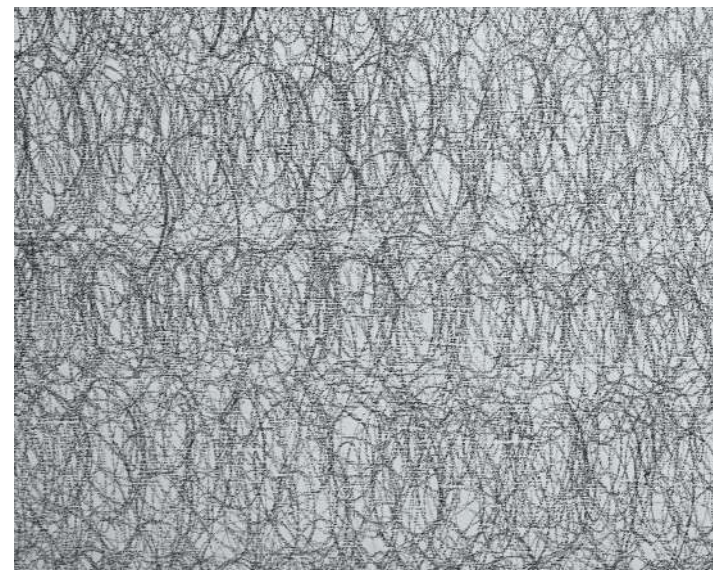
2019

Pencil on paper

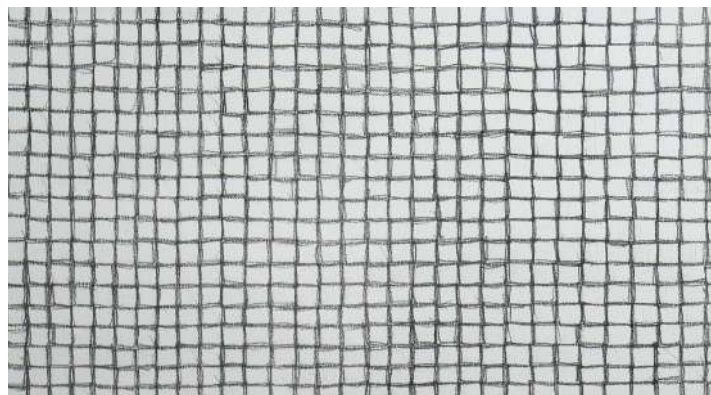
44.5 x 32.5 cm



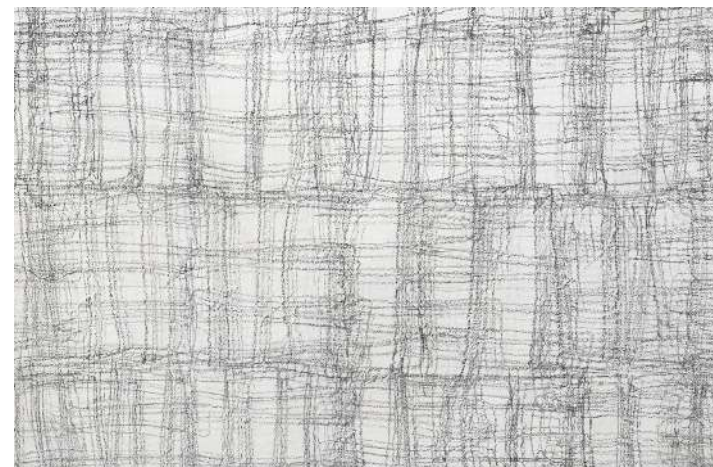
8,736 Squares
2018
Graphite and paint on plywood
122 x 122 cm



10,000 Cycles (close up)
2018
Graphite and paint on plywood
122 x 122 cm



8,736 Squares
close up



3,320 Rectangles (close up)
2019
Graphite and paint on plywood
122 x 122 cm

Artwork Rationale

dot dot dot line line line series..

In our daily lives, we often blindly repeat routines, and over time, these repeated actions can become subconscious as the brain begins to operate autonomously without our awareness. This phenomenon serves as the inspiration for the study presented in this series of works, which explores how repetition gradually evolves into automation. Continuously engaging in seemingly meaningless tasks over an extended duration defines the process, and its value becomes apparent through interpretation.

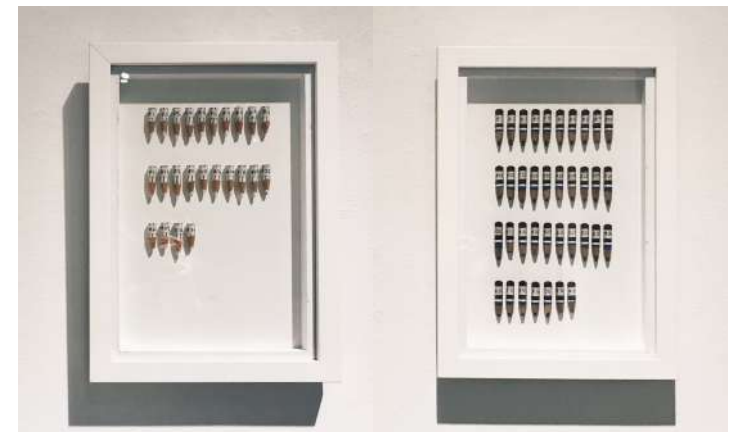
The initial rule governs the entire process, which makes it intriguing as I can never fully imagine how the final work will look until it's complete. It's more like: whatever happens, happens.



117g Pencil shreds (left), 132g Pencil shreds (right)
 2019
 Pencil shreds in perspex
 30 x 21 x 4 cm



Numbering system.



24 Pencils (left), 37 Pencil (right)
 2019
 Pencils on wood
 28 x 19 cm

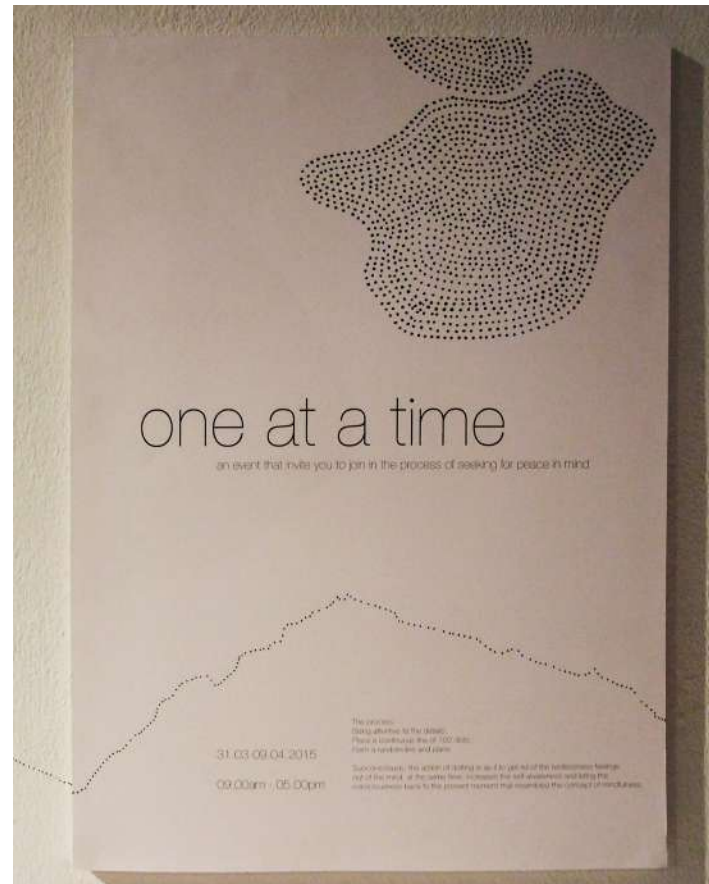
Artwork Rationale

Pencil shavings and leftover pencils from all drawing works showcased in my 1st solo exhibition 'dot dot dot line line line', as evidence of the value inherent in the art-making process.

Some rules or systems I've used include:

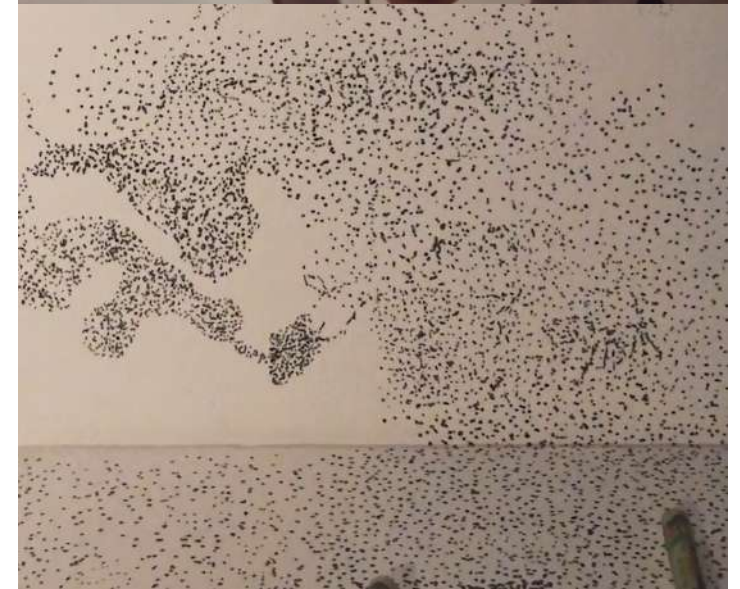
- Complete 100 dots continuously.
- Drawing straight lines, 5cm in height, line by line, row by row, from one end of the canvas to the other, and marking every 10 lines drawn.

one at a time
2015
Interactive art

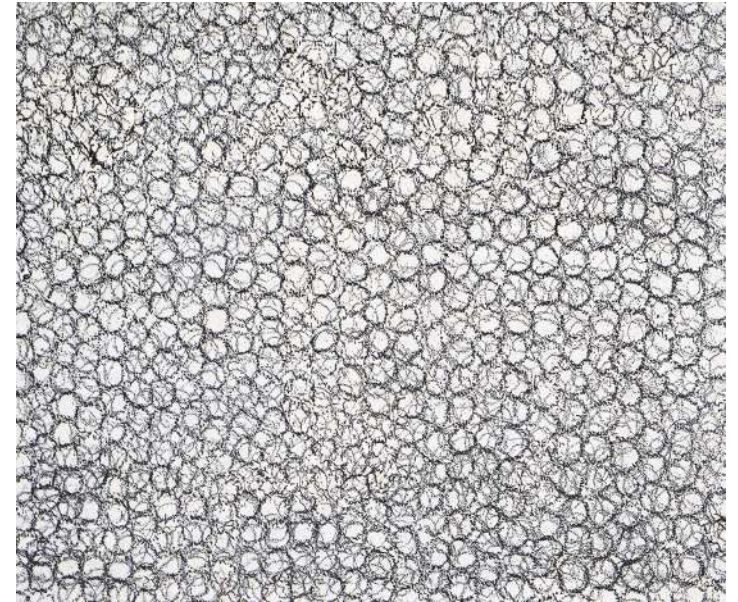


Artwork Rationale

An interactive project inviting audience to draw 100 dots continuously on the wall. The repetitive process of dotting encouraged participants to bring their consciousness back to the present moment, embodying the concept of mindfulness. It was reminiscent of the chanting process practiced by Buddhists with beads in hand, helping individuals stay focused by clearing their minds of random thoughts.



- Drawing 100,000 circles, each about 1cm in diameter, on a 4-by-4 foot canvas.



100,000 Circles (close up)

2017

Graphite and paint on MDF board

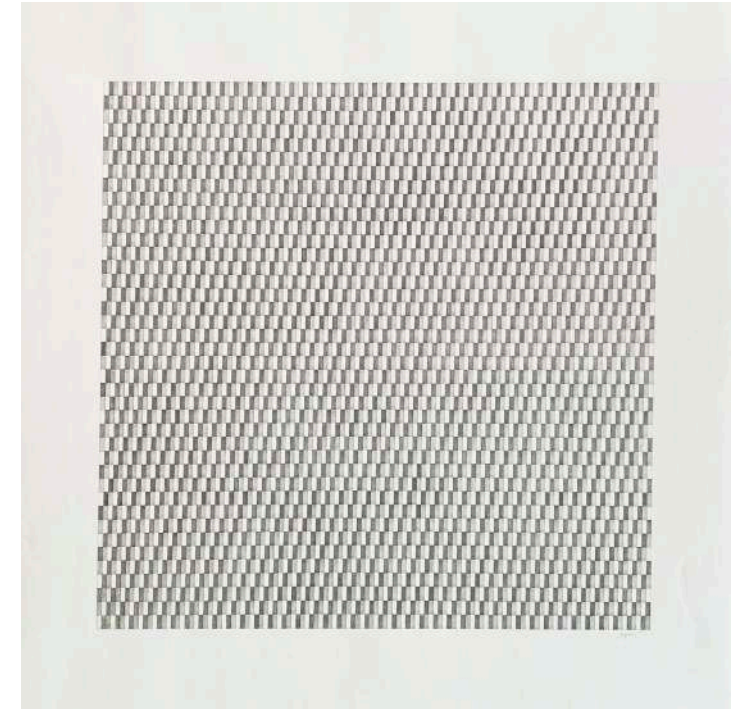
122 x 122 cm

Artwork Rationale

dot dot dot line line line series..

In our daily lives, we often blindly repeat routines, and over time, these repeated actions can become subconscious as the brain begins to operate autonomously without our awareness. This phenomenon serves as the inspiration for the study presented in this series of works, which explores how repetition gradually evolves into automation. Continuously engaging in seemingly meaningless tasks over an extended duration defines the process, and its value becomes apparent through interpretation.

My works do not depict specific forms or objects. They rely on simple design elements: dots, lines, and planes. Through the repetitive and seemingly meaningless actions performed over a prolonged time, I hope to shift the focus to the visual impact created by the process, leaving its value open to interpretation..

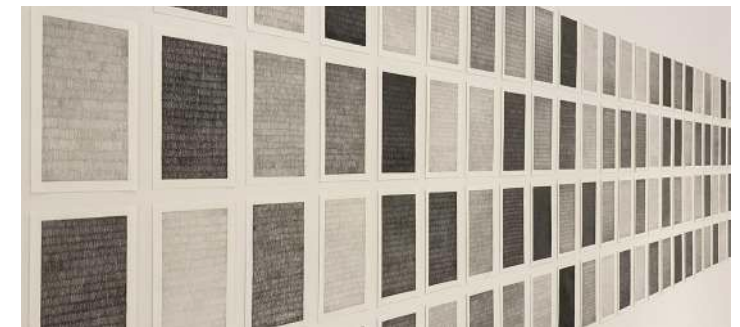


Soul that repeats III

2022

Pencil on acid free paper

80 x 80 cm



Soul that repeats VIII (set of 100)

2022

Pencil of acid free paper

18 x 10 cm each

Artwork Rationale

Soul that repeats series..

In our daily lives, we often blindly repeat routines, and over time, these repeated actions can become subconscious as the brain begins to operate autonomously without our awareness. This phenomenon serves as the inspiration for the study presented in this series of works, which explores how repetition gradually evolves into automation. Continuously engaging in seemingly meaningless tasks over an extended duration defines the process, and its value becomes apparent through interpretation.

Artwork Rationale

Soul that repeats series..

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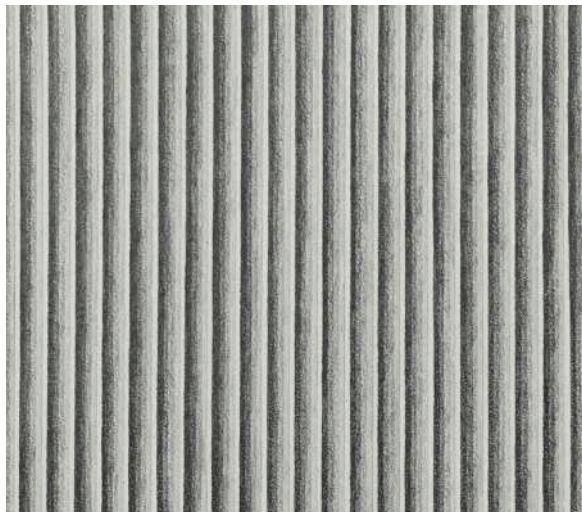


Soul that repeats - self reflection 1 (diptych)

2024

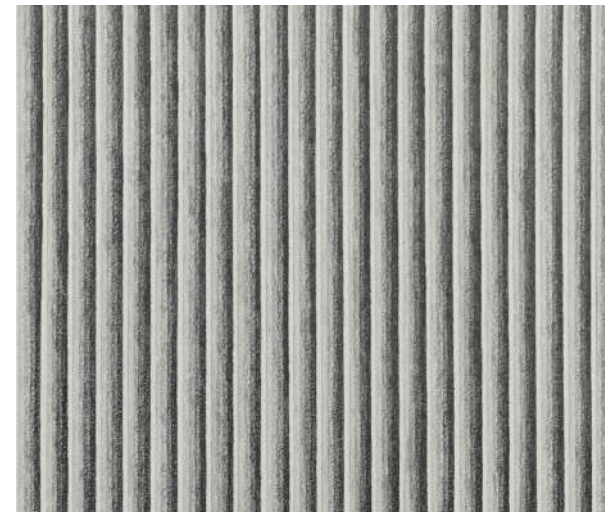
Pencil on acid free paper

123 x 347 cm



Soul that repeats - self reflection 1

left panel close up



Soul that repeats - self reflection 1

right panel close up

Connecting the root....

Thinking deeper, in my younger years, I was brought up in a routine-based lifestyle with fixed schedules, from school to tuition to hobby classes. I believe this structured upbringing has subconsciously influenced my art-making processes.



Artist inspiration: Ju-Ming

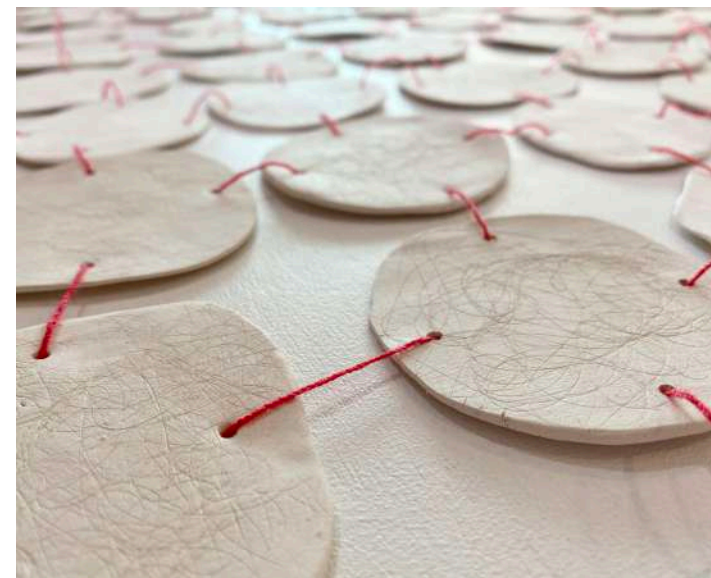
I admire his work and the concepts behind his art pieces, particularly the series themed 'The Living World', which conveys the inspirations of life. His art often reflects cultural aspects of the society and environment he inhabits. For instance, he sculpted a series depicting women sitting at a bus stop. These pieces capture the daily routines of the society he observes, portraying them as a form of culture.



The governed souls (close up)

2022

White clay fired at 1100°C, industrial glue and paint on plywood
91.5 x 91.5 cm



The connected souls (close up)

2022

White clay fired at 1100°C, thread, industrial glue and paint on plywood
122 x 122 cm



The fallen hair collected over 30 days for 'The connected souls' artwork.

Artwork Rationale

Soul that repeats series..

The ceramic works in the 'soul that repeats' series are inspired by my 'everyday soul', which reflects how I was brought up within my family. Each piece is inspired by and titled after a specific 'type of soul', created through mark-making or by molding the clay.

The governed souls..

My parents are very protective and supportive of me. It's a good thing to a point, but sometimes I worry if it might also be stifling. There were moments when I wanted to break away from the rules, do something different, and just play more. I did explore that, but at the end of the day, I always wanted to come back home and be with them. Each ceramic piece is hand-punched, molded into round shape, and neatly arranged on a board.

The connected souls..

A set of ceramic pieces features my fallen hair pressed and imprinted into the surface. Strands of hair hold a deep connection to our DNA and, to me, symbolize the soul. The pieces are then tied with red thread, which, in Chinese culture, represents good connections. This symbolizes how our roots can lead us toward meaningful bonds and paths in life.



The naked souls I

2022

Smoked and polished white clay (fired at 1100°C), painted wooden racks

56 x 200 x 8 cm

Edition: 1/5

Artwork Rationale

Soul that repeats series..

The ceramic works in the 'soul that repeats' series are inspired by my 'everyday soul', which reflects how I was brought up within my family. Each piece is inspired by and titled after a specific 'type of soul', created through mark-making or by molding the clay.

The naked souls I..

I've often asked myself, "Who am I?" and "Why am I...?" Over time, I've come to realize that humans, at their core, have no fixed self. This realization inspired a set of 1,000 'souls' (separated to 5 sets), each fired through a smoke-firing process. The unpredictable outcomes of each piece symbolize the raw, 'naked' nature of the soul, emphasizing its impermanence and individuality.



The naked souls I

close up



The naked souls

exhibition view

Art as self discovery....

I believe art is a lifelong journey of self-discovery. The process of creating art has not only deepened my understanding of myself but also continues to shape and transform me as I seek the true essence of my living through art.



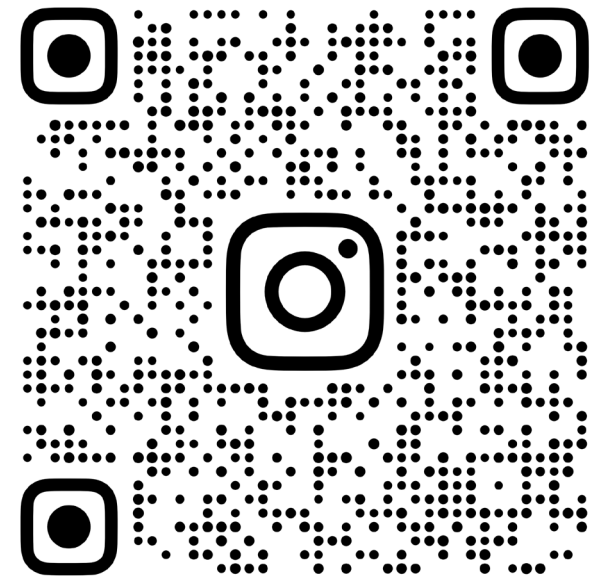
10,000 Steps a day for 30 days (ceramic.. set of 30)
2022
987 °c fired white clay
Approx. 2 x 30 x 30 cm each

10,000 Steps a day for 30 days (video)
2022
Video, silent, looped, 00:30:00



10,000 Steps a day for 30 days (ceramic.. set of 30)
close up

If you would like to know me more....



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