About My World

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INTRODUCTION

My graduation creation is a series of drawings, the material used is charcoal pencil, I named the series of works "World".
The epidemic that started in 2019 and quickly spread to the world has brought disaster to human beings. Since then, not only diseases, but also all aspects of human life have undergone tremendous changes. Everything we used to know has become unfamiliar. This is the background of my drawing works. I raise new questions about human existence and hope that people will rethink how to coexist between human beings and between human beings and nature.
To explore the meaning behind my "World" series of drawing, I need to start with two aspects:

First, during my thirty years as a professional artist, my work has covered a wide range of installations, printmaking, paintings, ceramics, weaving, and performance projects, to name a few. The way I create is basically the same as the way Eastern religious believers practice meditation, doing monotonous, repetitive work for a long time.

The creation of the "World" series of drawings is not simply an increase in the number of works one by one. This is a ten-month meditation creation project of mine. The project runs from August 2021, Ending in May of 2022.

During this period, the 20-square-meter studio on the third floor of the Smiley Art Building was almost the entire content of my life. Without everything, the bedroom, kitchen, the normal life of ordinary people is basically abandoned. Put yourself in the small space formed by my own works, and only do one thing: create art.

As is well known, after the death of the great monk in the temple and the body is burned, the relic will be left behind. This is an object produced after his life-long meditation; the "generated object" of my daily meditation is my one-by-one pieces of works.

The second aspect, the origin of the "World" series of drawings, is the epidemic that has swept and changed our world. It turns out that everything we are familiar with has changed. What we see with our eyes and what we think in our hearts has changed. For the future, we have to re-understand our world and rethink our future direction.

It's not that my works are going to create something weird, but that the world seems to have undergone a mutation of living organisms overnight. Innumerable things are mixed and re-mixed together, changing the world we were once familiar with. In response, my works express a sense of anxiety and confusion about the many questions and issues that arise from these changes. My work attempts to give people a new perspective on the meaning of human existence in our new reality.

My earlier works incorporate elements and symbols in subtle and direct ways, which reflect my Asian heritage. My “World” series drawing retains hints of the
influence of my background, but with less direct references. My Eastern traditions and culture, like the blood in my body, will always be with me in my life. However, the influence of tradition on me, or the way I think about tradition when I create, will change because of the changes in my living conditions.

Now living in the United States, as an international artist in a Western cultural environment, I am thinking more about the modern expression of Eastern culture and traditions, as well as the internationalization of my language approach. No matter how big the international language environment is, in front of people without eastern cultural background, the spiritual power of traditional culture is far greater than that of images and symbols, and it is possible to deeply touch people's hearts. These works attempt to present the somewhat strangeness in today's world as I understand it. My works almost always have some pattern elements, which is an important part of my work. This has to do with my early art education and an aesthetic that I have developed.

The batch of drawings in the "World" series is the only content of my meditation creation project. Each piece can only explore a simple question. After I deliberately established some formal connections between all my works, the scope of the subject matter has expanded. My meditation creation project is not just about a small issue, but about the general issues of society.
I describe my creative experience as meditation, what is my creative process like?

Every piece of my work takes a lot of time to create, even if it is a background with no specific content, I will go to three or four times to draw layer by layer. Everything in the drawing is also repeated many times to modify the outline, and many times to change the depth of the tone. All these require a quiet, simple mentality and continued endurance to explore artistic creation as the most important content in life and to repeat one thing happily every day.

I don't have any particular control over the content of the work, and I start to draw when I have a general idea. Along the way, things will be added that are unexpected at first.
There's no right or wrong in the content, and I'm not using an eraser. Sometimes the content of a work is a partial image from a previous work; perhaps from something seen; perhaps from a previous night's dream. In short, anything spontaneous can be the content of my work.

My drawing works are technically simple and straightforward, just like sketching and drawing in school foundation class. A few charcoal pencils in different shades are all my tools, layer upon layer of shades from light to dark. Almost everything that appears in the works is presented in relief, and similar shapes use many different expressions. For me, the most important thing is not what to draw or how to draw, but to create a mysterious world in my heart.

Art is my profession and way of life, so my artistic creations are influenced by many external factors. The "World" series of drawings is one of my most ground-breaking creative projects, and everything is created in a state of introspective thinking. No matter how I present the weird and grotesque, or express the oppressive and mysterious atmosphere, I do it according to what I think is my own artistic creation. But, interestingly, I leave my physical space in my studio and its limitations when I go to sleep and enter the weird spaces that I've created.

Does my work have explicit body parts and sexual symbol content, does this have special meaning for my entire series?

The inspiration for the "World" series comes from the epidemic that has swept the world, so my works touch on the human element. The content of body parts and sexual symbols is my thinking about the aspect of sexuality in chaotic times.

How does my present work relate to the earlier work?

More than 30 years of experience as a professional artist have made me form a relatively fixed concept of art very early on. My tradition is rooted in ancient art which utilized black and white calligraphy and ink drawings and has influenced my current work. In a way, all my work is interconnected. Whether or not I can see similar graphics and symbols in the works, my aesthetic concepts, philosophical thoughts, and understanding of religion, as well as the way of expression in the works, all run through every period and every piece of my work.
Art is my profession and my way of life, My understanding and knowledge of art comes from history, eastern philosophy, and religion. The road of art is full of hardships. From the perspective of art history, see whether my creation has meaning, this is what I do.

Do something different from the masters, do something different from anyone else, and then be myself. This may require denying everything that has become a textbook and accepted by people, becoming a cultural, political, religious, and especially a rebel of traditional ideas.