

SCULPTURE

Till July 6

Touching

Li Xiuqin's Art Exhibition
再·触·象——李秀勤作品展



Review by Rochelle Taves and Chun (Interns)

Venue: Renke Art Gallery
Address: 1 North Zhongshan, Rd. 中山北路1号
Tickets: Free admission



Li Xiuqin (李秀勤)
Age: 52
Birthplace: Qingdao, Shandong Province
Education: China Academy of Art

Recently *that's* went to Renke Gallery to visit Li Xiuqin's art show "Touching" and had the honour of sitting down and talking with artist too. Li Xiuqin is an artist who is well-known throughout the arts community for her one-of-a-kind sculptures. When she's not in the studio she can be found passing on her knowledge and skills to others, working as a professor at the China Art Academy. Li Xiuqin has devoted the past thirty years to her sculptures, and spent twenty of those years on one specific project, connecting art and society through braille.

According to the conversation we had with Professor Li, in 1982, when she travelled to northern China to create her latest sculpture, she became ill. As someone originally from southern China, she didn't adjust well to the area and the resulting illness affected her eyes-sight. In fact, the artist went temporarily blind. Professor Li told us

that this experience was the starting point of her project. After Professor Li's experience with blindness she began to incorporate braille into her sculptures and presented her sculptures to blind people, especially to blind children.

Fifteen years later, she went back to visit the kids that went to her first exhibition and touched her work, and asked them to make sculptures with her. Li's recent Renke Gallery exhibition proudly displays the result of this heart-felt collaboration.

The sense of touch is one of the five senses, but because we can see, this sense is often overlooked and taken for granted. For blind people however, the sense of touch is the most important of the senses. The loss of vision gifts blind people with magical and powerful hands. Professor Li helped expose these blind children to a whole new world

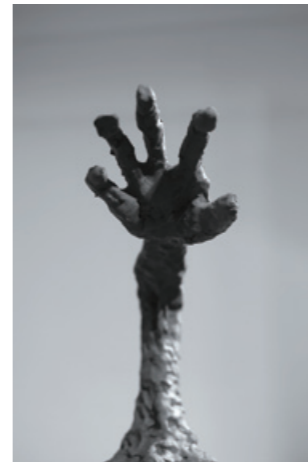
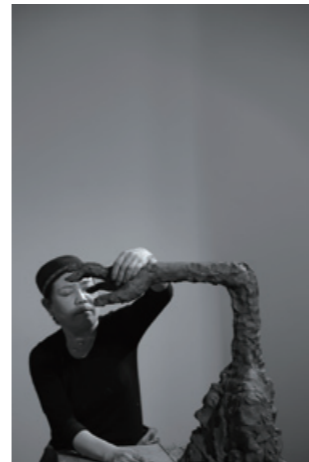
of possibilities. Though the children never had any sculpting lessons, and couldn't see what they were making, the pieces they made were as powerful as their hands.

What makes this exhibit even more special and unique is that throughout the whole process of making her sculptures, Professor Li had her eyes closed the whole time as well. She made herself make the sculpture under the same conditions as her blind students, experiencing the darkness as they do. The sculptures might seem abstract, but the darkness during the process brought out true realism. When I asked her what made her choose to create sculptures instead of painting she looked at me with passion in her eyes and said because 3D art is much more powerful than a painting. And, after looking at her work, I couldn't agree more. I encourage everyone who admires her sculptures to stop and close their eyes for a moment and use your hands to feel them. Only then will you truly understand, for that brief moment, what it feels like to be blind.



HANGZHOU WEEKLY

SCULPTURE



“点、点、点、点、点、点、点、点、点、点...没有开始没有结束，
点...没有表情，沉默无语，
点...它有一种不需言表，由内而发的能量，这种能量传递无限的生命意志，这是我第一次看到盲文的感受。”
此语写于我1993年第一次《触觉，凹凸》艺术展。也是后来大部分作品创作的源头。二十年来，我、盲文和盲文的凹凸形式为元素与物形影不离，化为我的艺术。在生命被时间慢慢地消解和丰厚的过程之中，艺术之树却在悄然成长。

——李秀勤

