

An Artist Statement On *Shade of a flower*

In 2017, the Hong Kong government supported an art exhibition at the Convention Centre as a celebration to the 20th anniversary of its handover from Britain to China. The organization for this art exhibition selected 500 ink paintings from thousands of submissions. I had the feeling that this exhibition would become a propaganda event for the government. Will it be possible for another kind of voice to appear in the exhibition?

I chose to copy a flower drawing made by a 14-year-old girl who was arrested for chalking a flower on a wall of the government complex and sent to a children's home, in late December 2014, about a month after Occupy Central ended. I hope her flower will continue to remind us the importance of peaceful civil disobedience.

The title is inspired by 花影, a poem from Su Shi 蘇軾,

重重疊疊上瑤台，幾度呼童掃不開。
剛被太陽收拾去，卻教明月送將來。

He saw shadows of flowers on the sumptuous pavilion and asked his servant boy to use a broom to sweep them away, however without success.

The shadows go away at sunset but reappear by moonlight.

The poem tells of his frustration about the cycle of corrupted government.