



Fung Lik Yan Kevin 冯力仁

Best known for his iconic wooden sculptures, Fung Lik Yan also works with stone and metal. A former engineer, his fine craftsmanship and profound concerns for the middle class experience in Hong Kong characterise his sculptures. For many years the artist lived a double life: he worked as a white collar worker during the day and a sculptor at night. Fung Lik Yan only recently gave up his engineer job to fully immerse himself in creating art. His art represents the daily routines of Hong Kong's middle class, as well as the challenges and pressures they face. His works illustrate his vision of life. Fung Lik Yan considers the interaction of different walks of life and the daily routine of labour as the fabric of society. Through his works, he also depicts the impact these activities have on the people. In some works, he intentionally represents the figures as toy size and limits the height to about four feet tall. This arrangement allows the audience to view the figures from a higher position, as if they were gods judging from above. Putting viewers under an objective lens, the artist's works direct them to reflect on their city lifestyles: in this urban modern lifestyle, spending has become the sole purpose of working and earning cash. He thus leads viewers to evaluate their core values in life.

Fung Lik Yan's recent works are more spiritual than his more practical previous works. As the artist was creating works on the everyday, himself working on it everyday, he reflected on his own lifestyle and creating art became exhausting. Later triggered by the deaths of his mother and teacher Tong King Sum, the artist has settled on producing more soothing works that have provided him an escape from the reality. Fung Lik Yan has also broadened his use of materials, venturing into bronze, cement and granite, which allows him to further investigate on the identities of middle class workers, as he recently expressed through his work *Groping for Stones to...* (2012):

*"Do you have a dream that you can hold on to and that drives you forward?
Do you have a belief to hold on to when you fall?
In the midst of turmoil, I just want a place to rest my mind.
Once again, we are groping for stones to find our way."*

Born in Hong Kong in 1964, Fung Lik Yan studied Contemporary Sculpture at the University of Hong Kong in 1992 and studied woodcarving with the renowned artist Tong King Sum the year after. He currently lives and works in Hong Kong. Fung Lik Yan Kevin has participated in various exhibitions in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. The artist has received numerous prizes including the Hong Kong Art Centre 30th Anniversary Award in 2008 and the Outstanding Prize in the Hong Kong Visual Art Competition in 1993.