

Looking in the dusty window and stepping in Mr. Guan Fung Chung's (官鋒忠) studio, what strikes one first is the strong personality in every corner: the thick coat of dust on unused cabinets, rows of music scores lined up on shelves and stacked slabs of clay. Yet when you look upon the spotless individual sculptures and diversity of ceramics, you don't see neglect; you see a studio full of imagination.



The spirited creator of living art

—Making art come to life—官鋒忠老師

© Wei-Ann Chang / Hsing-Kuo High school

Mr. Guan is as interesting as his studio is: Hale, hearty laughter; a full head of wavy hair and a true child at heart, always ready with something to cheer up one's day. No matter if friends or family come to visit, he always at his most comfortable- smelling of earthy clay and a cigarette at hand. No matter how dazed or confused he may seem, when it comes to pottery, he is always as earnest as can be.



Born in a potter's family, Mr. Guan had been immersed in clay art since a young age, developing strong basic technique for hand-building and wheel-throwing. Seeing him throw clay on the wheel is pure magic, watching a lump of clay twist and change slowly into a unique work of art. Whenever you see him work, he always brings something new you never thought of, no matter technique or artwork or both.



By using clay as his letters, and work pieces as words, Mr. Guan has pinched thrown or sculpted life's ups and downs, bitterness and sweetness into one-of-kind pieces of art; I believe this is his way of interpreting his creativity and feelings.

Looking at different pieces, they all represent a different frame of mind. The beginning ones concentrated on martial arts and black-faced spoonbills.



Focusing on a soft style martial art—Tai Chi, an art applied with internal power, Mr. Guan used simple lines and smooth planes to create a solid yet simple feeling of complexity. At first, the sculptures may seem lucid and easy to understand but when you notice the volume of each Tai Chi figure, you can't help but marvel at the precise balance of size and artistic expression. The result is many unique sculptures, each reflecting the serene, stoic strength of Tai-Chi in its own way.

By observing black faced-spoonbills, he realized, everything in this world is connected to each other. No matter architecture, color, humans or environment, everything has a relation with one another. By fine-tuning these relations, he started to find a more harmonious curve to his artwork, creating a rhythm that echoes a part of your soul. A distinct character appears in all black faced-spoonbill artwork: the feeling of solitude and muted confidence, though spoonbills move as a group, you can still feel the confidence and poise in each individual, the same confidence is found on Mr. Guan's black faced-spoonbill artwork.

Though his artwork gets bigger, the entire feeling of it gets more peaceful and balanced. Simple lines make out planes, which in turn subtly curves upon itself, creating a feeling of eternity. Many planes shape a 3-D shape blending the feeling of eternity and reality together, giving much of his artwork a philosophical, even Zen awareness. Making his artwork seems out of this world, yet still approachable by people of all ages. Mr. Guan is just like his artwork: big yet subtle, seemingly simple but profoundly artful, a true artisan.

