



夜行探秘

EXPLORING THE NIGHT

氹仔城區文化協會獨家呈獻「夜行者：黃靄雯攝影展」

TAIPA VILLAGE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION EXCLUSIVELY PRESENTS *NOCTURNAL*, A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION BY RUSTY FOX

In June, Taipa Village Cultural Association presented *Nocturnal*, an enigmatic photography exhibition featuring a photobook by Rusty Fox, who captures the anthropomorphic forms of plants in the city. This one-of-a-kind show explores the uncanny resemblance between sentient organisms and urban vegetation.

During Macau's pandemic lockdown, Rusty snuck out at night and wandered around, noticing that the city's plant life was thriving more than ever. The vividness of the plant forms and growth – and their “body language”, which to him spoke louder than words – at a time when everything else was perfectly quiet and still, inspired his project.

“I like walking around at midnight in an empty city. Without people around, I start to observe little things around me; in this project – trees and plants,” says Rusty. “I like how they have been around and living in the city for so many years, but we are so used to them and ignore them in the daytime. I feel like they are having their own time at midnight and I am the outsider myself.”

By taking an anthropomorphic approach, Fox created portraits of trees and insect-like flowers and plants as analogous to human forms through his carefully composed close-ups, capturing the plants' exuberance and grace as they pulsed with energy – moving, dancing and stretching, much like people in an urban environment.

6月，氹仔城區文化協會呈獻攝影展「夜行者」，展出澳門攝影師黃靄雯的攝影集，呈現城市中植物的擬人形態。這個獨具特色的展覽探索了有感知的生物與城市植物之間的驚人相似之處。

疫情封鎖期間，藝術家悄悄地在澳門街頭四處遊蕩，由此發現植物在完全靜止的城市生活下生長得比以往更茂盛，亦被這股生命力所吸引，萌生計劃該系列創作。儘管捕捉的是植物的靜止形態，它們的「肢體語言」卻能比言詞表達來得更為動人心弦。

「我喜歡在午夜時分遊走於城市街頭。四望無人之時，我開始觀察身邊的微小事物；在這個系列中，即是樹木與植物，」黃靄雯表示。「它們靜靜地存在於城市很多年，我們卻習以為常，白天對它們視而不見。深夜時，植物似乎正享受著屬於自己的時間，而我才是那個闖入者。」

透過對樹木或花卉等生物形態的擬人化描繪，藝術家呈現出一種生機勃勃的表達方式，有時甚至帶有感性的觸感刺激。在神秘的特寫鏡頭下，這些生物彷彿不再僵滯，而是充滿活力地行走、跳舞、伸展，就像現代都市的人們一樣。



展覽日期 2024年6月20日至8月24日
 時間 12.00 pm – 8.00 pm
 地址 氹仔舊城區藝術空間 澳門氹仔木鐸街16-18 號
 媒材 攝影
 入場 免費

Exhibition period : Until August 24
 Opening hours : 12.00 pm – 8.00 pm
 Address: Taipa Village Art Space, No. 16-18, Rua dos Clerigos,
 Taipa, Macau
 Admission : Free

「我無意中發現了植物與人體的相似之處。許多樹的圖像初看起來是樹，但如果你翻轉圖片，就會看到不同——人體的形象，」藝術家解釋道。「Henri Cartier-Bresson經常這樣處理馬格蘭攝影通訊社同事的作品，在圖片中發現一些超現實之物。此外，我用閃光燈將背景處理成純粹的一片黑暗，有助於將觀者的注意力集中在拍攝對象之上，而不會分心。」

由紙張質感、圖像呈現與敘述，乃至整個閱讀體驗，攝影集《夜行者》也在邀請讀者能像翻閱一本老舊的怪談小說般進入生活以外那另類但平行的世界。

「我們今年非常榮幸能夠邀請黃靄雲於氹仔舊城區展出這個詭異神秘的攝影集。」氹仔城區文化協會理事長及策展人João Ó表示：「藝術家對植物群的夜間探索產生了感性及刺激觸覺之詮釋，邀請觀者發揮想像力來記錄所看到的事物。」

黃靄雲出生於澳門，於英國南威爾斯大學取得紀實攝影碩士及東倫敦大學取得攝影學士。他時常留意都市中的平衡與失衡，特別對沒有生命的無機物和人類作為有機物之間的關係感興趣。

他認為，紀實攝影在內容的呈現上沒有限制。他的作品重心是讓讀者看得見生命體和物件之間常被忽視的關係，在不尋常裡發現日常，從而獲得隱藏在內的訊息，透過影像不言自明。

“I discovered the similarities with the human body by accident. Many of the photos look like trees at first, but if you turn the image upside down you start seeing things – in this case the figure of a human body,” Rusty explains. “Henri Cartier-Bresson does this a lot to the pictures from his colleagues in MAGNUM PHOTOS, resulting in finding something surreal. Also, my flash isolated the background into pure darkness, and this helps my audience focus on my subject without distraction.”

Together with the exhibition, the photobook is an invitation to visitors to enter into a parallel alternative world, starting with the texture of the paper, encompassing the narrative of the imagery, and ultimately involving the entire reading experience, as if set down in a mysterious tale from a vintage novel.

“It is our honour to invite Rusty to showcase this quirky and mystical photography collection in Taipa Village,” says João Ó, Curator and President of the Executive Board at Taipa Village Cultural Association.

“Anthropomorphic figures, conveyed through the portraits of trees or insect-like flowers and plants, are Fox’s nocturnal explorations of the local flora. The tree trunks depicted have such a physical expression – even sensual at times, one might suggest – that there is a haptic stimulus created by the contrast in surface texture. In Fox’s uncanny close ups, these living figures aren’t still, they’re pulsing with energy: walking, dancing, stretching, much like people in an urban environment.”

Born in Macau, Rusty earned a master’s degree in documentary photography at the University of South Wales and a bachelor’s degree in photography at the University of East London. His works have always focused on balances and imbalances within the city, emphasising the relationships between sentient beings and objects often regarded as inanimate.

For Fox, documentary photography has no limits to the ways in which it can present its subjects. His body of work encourages viewers to ponder the oft-neglected connection between active, mobile beings and features of the world that are frequently considered static, leading us to hidden messages through his pursuit of extraordinary truths amid the apparent ordinariness of our surroundings, while allowing the images to speak for themselves.

