

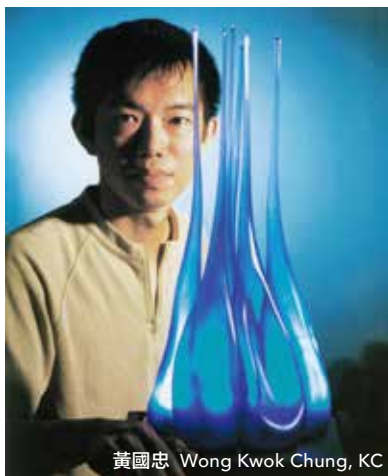
人總喜歡分類——敵友、對錯、好壞，非黑即白到近乎執迷的程度；而甚麼是/不是藝術更是千年命題。「以往玻璃被視為實用或裝飾工業，難登藝術殿堂，其實都幾慘！」黃國忠 (KC) 有感而發。

此玻璃工作室 彼玻璃工作室 / 炎炎夏日，走進 KC 位於 JCCAC L0-04 單位的工作室「Studio Glass」，本以為會被玻璃大熔爐熱到頭昏腦脹，卻原來環境相當清幽（編按：高樓底和門前兩排「聯合國」陣容的林蔭盆栽功不可沒）。工作室內放滿機器，但仍能劃分區域玩火槍、吹玻璃、打磨和陳列等。面對市區嚴重的「土地問題」，如此有規模的玻璃工作室在香港可謂絕無僅有。

KC把工作室命名為「Studio Glass」，說來有段古：「為了紀念現代玻璃作為藝術媒介的誕生，是源於上世紀六十年代在美國發起的「玻璃工作室運動」。」該運動有世界性的深遠影響，激發藝術家擺脫玻璃工業而自立藝術工作室，分享以玻璃作為藝術媒介的創意和技術。

玻璃：是藝術亦是科學 / 從事玻璃藝術逾20年，KC為玻璃箇中的多樣性和深度而著迷：

「玻璃剔透，與光互動產生美感。它亦很「科學化」，化學名稱二氧化矽（SiO₂），即沙的主要成份，是在地球大量的複合物質；高溫下屬液態狀可塑性極高；冷卻變硬後又可打磨不同質感。」喜歡玻璃，亦熱愛大自然的他，最近與綠色力量合辦「BUTTERFLY



黃國忠 Wong Kwok Chung, KC



x ART裝置藝術展覽」，將棄置玻璃再造成三千隻彩蝶。彩蝶展覽「飛過」中環的摩天輪、JCCAC中央庭園和香港文化中心後，將於10月走訪城門郊野公園，以喚起大眾對本地蝴蝶及生態環境的關注。

默劇：默默發聲 / 更耐人尋味的，還有KC本身。他多年前放棄雜誌社的工作後，成為玻璃藝術家，同時亦是默劇藝人和木偶師。他透露，所學的是以細緻見稱的法國默劇，能發揮幻象思維。「我不善言詞，但做默劇還不賴！」說罷更大顯身手，即用形體扮演從一道隱形牆中開門離去，還不忘關門，姿態流暢細膩，看得人拍案叫絕。他笑稱：「研習默劇須觀人於微，久而久之已變成了本能習慣。」閱讀一個人，不但留意對方的形態動靜，更要像看透玻璃一般，觀其內心神韻。

「希望透過創作，捕捉某個時刻的感受，呈現我對人生的觀察和思考。」KC正積極籌備來年4至6月間於台灣新竹舉行的個人展。

「會試驗把玻璃鑲嵌到其他材料，發掘新的藝術可能性。」此外，原來每個國家製作的玻璃都不一樣，因為材料成份的比例各有獨特性，不能混合。「我想在這批作品中挑戰

難度，將不同國家的玻璃結合運用，嘗試一件大家都說「不可能」的事情。」KC沉默一會兒繼續說：「有時大家原以為不可能的事，肯嘗試或總有辦法做到吧！」猶如玻璃，KC的藝術世界剔透又多變，大家正以為看透了，當中卻還有新的故事和驚喜。

撲朔琉璃 黃國忠 Wong Kwok Chung, KC Glassy classiness

Perhaps it is a common human foible to over-simplify things, often by pairing polar opposites for ease of definition – friends/foes, right/wrong, good/bad. While there has never been an easy, black or white answer to define what is or is not art, “for a long time, glass has unfortunately been considered merely a practical or decorative medium and not art,” Wong Kwok Chung (KC) says.

Glass studio/ studio glass

As the mercury rises in the midst of a record-breaking summer heatwave, any trepidation of entering his studio at JCCAC L0-04 housing a large glass furnace is fortunately soon vanquished – the studio is surprisingly airy and inviting, thanks to the high ceiling and the rows of leafy exotic plants lining the entrance pathway. Despite the packed paraphernalia of machinery and equipment, there is clear demarcation of areas for lampwork, glass blowing, polishing and display. It looks a little like Dr. Who in his TARDIS.

KC named his artist studio Studio Glass, “to commemorate the mid-century modern glass art movement which originated in the United States but had an international impact.” The movement encouraged the use of glass as an art medium in a non-industrial setting, with emphasis on the sharing of technical knowledge and ideas among artists.

Glass: an art and a science

KC has been fascinated by the depth of artistic possibilities of glass for over 20 years. “The magic of light on glass is aesthetically very pleasing. But glass also has its roots in science – chemistry to be exact. As you might know, glass is silicon dioxide (SiO₂), the main component of sand and thus the most abundant compound on earth. It is liquid or malleable at high temperature, but can be polished to assume interesting textures when cooled and hardened.” A nature lover, he has lately collaborated with Green Power to raise butterfly habitat and environmental awareness through the creation and exhibition of 3,000

colourful butterflies made from recycled glass. After flying over the ferris wheel in Central, the courtyard in JCCAC and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the BUTTERFLY X ART Installation Art Exhibition will travel to Shing Mun Country Park in October 2015.

Mime: speaking without words

KC is a fascinating chameleon himself, becoming an artist not only in glass art, but also in mime and puppetry as well, after quitting work in a magazine many years ago. “I am a man of few words, so mime suits me. In particular, I am fond of French mime for its imaginative and poetic illusions.” His impromptu demonstration of miming a walk through an invisible door was impressively stylish and convincing. “To train for mime, one has to develop a keen awareness of people’s quirkiness and idiosyncrasies – I guess that observing others has become a habit and almost second nature to me.” He reads his subjects like glass, looking beyond the superficial and obvious, deep into their spirit and soul.

“I want to capture my fleeting feelings and communicate my observations and thoughts on life through my artworks.” He is currently busy creating works for a solo exhibition in Taiwan to be shown between April and June 2016. “I will be experimenting with the artistic possibilities of glass enamelling on various materials.” He also explained that the chemical composition of glass used in different countries is unique to each, and therefore the general consensus is that they cannot be mixed. “In this body of new works, I would like to experiment with combining the different types of glass from around the world. It’s going to be a bit of a challenge – everyone says that it is impossible.” After a pause, he added “But you never know. Maybe where there is a will there is a way.”

Glass is the artistic medium of KC but can just as well be a metaphor for him as a person – just when you think that you can see through him and understand what he does, he surprises you with a fresh angle and heads off on a road less travelled.