

“The Cynic” Series

In such current times, people no longer act the way they used to be like in the old days. Recently, Taiwan has seen all kinds of strange and bizarre social occurrences, from political confusion and disorder, to excessive gossip in media. Sarcasm and criticism towards oneself and others seem to have become a popular way to escape from the brutal reality of life. Under such atmosphere and influences, this series of work was done, at times of leisure, with the application of gold leaf handiwork and traditional drawing.

The cynic and the devil portray the main characters, illustrating the glamorous yet corrupt phenomenon of society. Some of the dialogues come from comics, where Chinese and English words are cleverly chosen and matched with same sounds but different meanings (a bilingual pun) to create a mix-matched yet correlated communication; The intention is to be “mis-read” as a way to satirize society. (In the work, “The Cynic: Chinese,” “the word “Chinese” is phonetically matched with “Chuai Ni Si,” meaning “Kicking You [To] Death.” “Taiwanese” is matched with “Ta Wan Ni Si,” meaning “He Play You Die.” And in “The Cynic: People to People, Government to Government,” “People to People” sounds like “Pi-Gu Dui Pi-Gu” which means “Buttocks to Buttocks,” and “Government to Government” becomes “Gang-Men Dui Gang-Men” or “Asshole to Asshole.”)

The licentious behavior is a metaphor that all the struggles and fights in this world is like a game of love and sex. No matter if it's about life and death, or power and destruction, it constructs the cynical society that we are in - an unavoidable real condition. There is no way for us to escape and excuse ourselves; We cannot run away from this preposterous branding that history has left on our bodies and minds. Hereforth, I mockingly proclaim myself as “The Cynic.”