

美之爲美的存在

畫家帕斯卡

In Search of Life's True Colors —Artist Pascal van der Graaf


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17歲留著五顏六色的龐克頭，四處在荷蘭阿培爾頓市的街頭塗鴉；28歲獲得荷蘭藝術最高獎項「皇家藝術獎」的畫家帕斯卡（Pascal van der Graaf），五年前隨著台灣籍的太太楊雅雯來到台灣。今（2021）年，42歲留著絡腮鬍的他決定入籍台灣，在台南市新營成立「帕斯卡的藝術工坊」，在藝術創作與美術教育中，探索藝術的各種可能性。


When he was 17, Pascal van der Graaf sported a multi-colored Mohawk hairstyle and wandered the streets of Apeldoorn to make graffiti. At 28, he won the Netherlands' prestigious Royal Award for Modern Painting. Van der Graaf moved to Taiwan five years ago with his Taiwanese wife, Arwen Yang. This year, the bearded 42-year-old decided to apply for Taiwanese citizenship. He established Pascal's Art Workshop in Xinying District, Tainan City, to explore the infinite possibilities of art through creative activities and education.







帕斯卡認為，雕塑以過去為師，也是界限內的探索。
Pascal van der Graaf says that sculptors gain inspiration
from the past and explore creative possibilities within the
boundaries of their art.



南台灣烈陽高照，台南市新營區有著悠閒安適的步調，帕斯卡在畫室中氣定神閒地要學生用手指頭、小球來當畫筆，在畫紙上拓展出燦爛繽紛的色彩。他拿著學生的作品稱讚地說：「畫得很好，小孩子是天生的藝術家，將這張畫放大到1.5英尺與2英尺見方，裱上框，就與在美術館看到的成功作品一樣。」

在界限中探索創作的自由

除了教畫，爲了準備參與公共藝術投標的作品，帕斯卡最近一起床，就在畫室專心創作。

他展示最新運用摺紙技法的作品：一隻立體的兔子。擅長處理色彩變化的他，運用flip flop顏料，讓兔子在陽光下，閃耀著千變萬化的顏色。這個用紙做的原形，他計劃未來可以用鋁等金屬作爲材料來放大，成爲公共藝術。

「你看，當我摺紙時，將眼睛的角度內凹或是外凸時，會呈現邪惡或是友善等截然不同的視覺效果。藝術作品令觀者產生不同的詮釋，這是藝術語言的表達。」帕斯卡將這隻兔子放在陽台的地板上，在陽光照耀下，這隻彩色兔頓時變成科技感十足的機器兔。

The sun blazes down in southern Taiwan, and Xinying is bathed in a serene, carefree atmosphere. In the workshop, a calm and confident Van der Graaf asks his young students to put gorgeous colors on their paper with their fingers and small balls. Observing their progress, Van der Graaf is full of praise: "This is an excellent painting. Children are artists by nature. If you were to enlarge this picture to 1.5 by 2 feet and frame it, it would look just like the successful works you can see exhibited in art galleries."

Exploring creative possibilities

In addition to teaching art, Van der Graaf goes into his workshop first thing each morning to work on a public art commission project.

He shows us his most recent origami creation: a three-dimensional rabbit. Adept at manipulating chromatic variations, he used special pigments to produce "flip-flop" effects, making his rabbit glitter in the sun with ever-changing colors. He plans to turn this paper maquette into a full-sized public artwork made of aluminium and other metals.

積木課中，帕斯卡老師要學生在創作中展現自我。
Van der Graaf teaches children to express themselves creatively by building models.



帕斯卡的父親四歲就教他摺紙，他自己再從做中學，成就他現今運用摺紙雕塑的能力。他說：「我很享受這個創作的過程，就是tinker and ponder，隨心所欲，摺到那裡，就讓形狀發展到那裡。」母語是荷蘭語的他，用英文解釋說：「以我的語言來解釋，可以說是邊做邊玩，就像小學時的美術課。」

帕斯卡示範摺紙技法，三個三角形可以堆疊成金字塔，四個三角形可以成為三角柱，再塗上不同的3D顏料。他認為，作畫會有規則，創作的藝術是在有限制的界限中，探索更大的自由。

他教畫的理念，也與雕塑一樣，從不同的視角切入，才能探究很多不同的可能性。「我不贊成『我說跳，你就問我要跳多高』的教育方式，從小我所受的教育，是要質疑老師教給你的東西。」有著清瘦臉龐的帕斯卡認真地強調：「教育應該是讓你發現你所喜歡的事物，創作出能表現你自己的作品。」

離開人生的舒適圈

尤其是藝術的探索，帕斯卡認為：「與其待在舒適圈，我更喜歡站到舒適圈外，讓自己得到解放。」到亞洲就是離開原來的舒適圈。

帕斯卡2015年去澳門，是因為在網路上認識了在澳門科技大學教「中國文化通論」的助理教授楊雅雯。

一開始得知楊雅雯是台灣人時，帕斯卡想起對台灣的唯一印象，是小時候玩的變形機器人玩具由台灣製造，因此他還上網google了一下台灣，但完全沒有想到會成為台灣人。

還是愛情的力量大，兩人每天視訊，有時一講話就長達二~三小時，一個月後，從未來過亞洲的帕斯卡決定從荷蘭到澳門來約會，兩人熱戀三個月後決定結婚。不諱言這是一場賭注，「現在想想，我很高興我這麼做了。」帕斯卡說。

笑著說被愛沖「婚」頭的楊雅雯沒有多久懷孕，2016年底大女兒Sky出生後，兩人決定搬回台灣。原因很多，「澳門沒有太多天然景觀，加上澳門面積小、很擁擠，讓人常常想逃離，尤其不希望女兒在以賭場著名的地方長大，來台灣是很好的決定，台灣有豐富的自然景觀與人文文化，台灣人又很和善。」帕斯卡作了如此的分析。

不過，搬回台灣，對楊雅雯卻是很大的考驗。「這是我人生最嚴重的自我失落。」楊雅雯從小就是資優生，台灣大學藥學系畢業，又到中國大陸北京大學拿到中文博士學位，從在教室高談闊

Van der Graaf's father taught him origami when he was four, and building on that base he taught himself to create paper sculptures. "I very much enjoy this creative process—the process of tinkering and pondering. I let my imagination run wild, developing the shape of each part of a work by trial and error, like walking a path. It's a playful process, rather like what we used to do in elementary school craft classes."

As an art teacher as well as a practicing artist, Van der Graaf believes that we have to approach each task from different perspectives in order to open up a wealth of hidden possibilities. "I don't approve of pedagogical systems that propagate the mantra 'I say "jump" and you say "how high?"' My own education taught me to challenge everything my teachers said." Van der Graaf tells us in a serious tone: "Education should help us discover what we like and create things that express what we are."

Out of the comfort zone

"Rather than always staying in one place, I like to get the hell out of my comfort zone, to liberate myself." For Van der Graaf, to move to Asia was to bid farewell to his comfort zone.

He traveled to Macau in 2015 because he had met Arwen Yang online. At that time Yang was an assistant professor at Macau University of Science and Technology, where she taught Chinese culture.

When Van der Graaf learned that Yang was from Taiwan, the only thing about the country that came to mind was that the Transformers toys he used to play with as a child were made there. He gathered some information about Taiwan via Google, but never did he foresee that one day he would become a Taiwanese citizen.

Van der Graaf video-chatted with Yang every day. After a month he flew to Macau from the Netherlands to see her, despite having never visited Asia before. After three romantic months together, they decided to get married. Van der Graaf knew this was a gamble, but looking back, he is happy that he did it.

Yang, who says with a smile that she and Van der Graaf were head over heels in love, soon became pregnant. After their daughter, Sky, was born in late 2016, the couple decided to relocate to Taiwan.

However, moving back to Taiwan was a huge challenge for Yang. "I felt the most profound sense of loss that I have ever experienced in my life." Yang has always distinguished herself academically. Having obtained a degree in pharmacy from National



帕斯卡運用摺紙技法與flip flop顏料，所創作的貓頭鷹。

Van der Graaf used origami and "flip-flop" pigments to create this owl.

摺紙雕塑的過程，就是在有限制的界限中，探索更大的自由。

Creating origami sculptures pushes the boundaries of creative freedom within the limits imposed by the medium.



帕斯卡隨著台灣太太楊雅雯定居台南。
Pascal Van der Graaf has settled in Tainan with his Taiwanese wife, Arwen Yang.

論孟子莊子的教授，到計較柴米油鹽的家庭主婦，「我沒有了工作，又要帶小孩，我想想只有娘家的父母親可以為我兩肋插刀。」為了娘家的奧援，決定搬到台南新營定居。

文化衝擊與權力遊戲的調整

對帕斯卡而言，最大的挑戰則是文化衝擊。

習慣作為一個直來直往，捍衛自己權益的歐洲人，帕斯卡舉例說，在澳門，帶著懷孕的太太去游泳，泳池旁有人抽菸，他總是直接告訴對方：



「請不要抽菸。」他發現，在場的人也不喜歡有人抽菸，卻敢怒不敢言，沒有人敢站出來說真話。

這個情形到了台灣也是一樣。尤其是家門前有人違規停車，不論貼出告示，或是畫上紅線仍有人繼續違規停車。直到有一天，帕斯卡發現這是「權力的遊戲」(power play)。

一開始，他出面糾正，違規的人依然故我，但當他微笑地請對方移車，他發現亂停車的人立即說著對不起，馬上移車，「微笑以對」是取得權力主導權的方式。他開車時被人從後面亂按喇叭，一開始也是怒火中燒，最後他發現，讓自己心中充滿平靜，維持正常的速度開車，才是佔上風，這是他面對文化衝擊的轉變。

雖有文化上的衝擊，亞洲之旅卻也啟發了帕斯卡源源不絕的藝術靈感。原來，與楊雅雯相戀前，帕斯卡的藝術創作正面臨腸枯思竭的窘境，楊雅雯在一旁爆料說：「其實他卡很久了。」

曾在2003、2004、2008三度獲得荷蘭國家藝術基金會BKVB獎金。帕斯卡提及，對新秀畫家來說，獲得這些獎金有如中了樂透。但他卻是連獲三次獎，作品還被荷蘭的 Belvédère 美術館等場館收藏，28歲更獲得了荷蘭藝術最高榮譽「皇家藝術獎」。可以說少年得志的他所創作的「花」系列畫作，表現出花的凋謝與燦爛的綻放，在市場賣得很好，但帕斯卡卻覺得無聊。

找到生命的真顏色

來到亞洲，不只戀情滋潤著他，浸潤在不同風貌的亞洲文化中，尤其是與太太到日本旅行，更喚醒了帕斯卡對摺紙藝術的熱情。颱風天，帕斯卡帶著錄影機，跑到澳門的海邊去錄海，海浪不斷沖打上岸，全身溼透的他，回家創作完成「海」系列，從特定的角度觀畫，還能感受海浪翻騰的悸動。

帕斯卡在台南學氣功，在太太組織的「老子道德經」讀書會中，也多所感悟。雖然讀的是英文版的道德經，他說：「許多西方人深受星際大戰系列電影吸引，導演喬治·盧卡斯在電影中強調的『原力』，其實與道德經中的『道』不謀而合。道是生活的實踐，就



Taiwan University, she went on to study for a PhD in Chinese at Peking University. It was therefore a drastic change to go from expounding on Mencius and Zhuangzi in a university classroom to becoming a penny-pinching housewife. In order to benefit from the help of Yang's parents, the couple decided to settle in Xinying.

Culture shock

A straightforward European who is mindful of standing up for his own rights, Van der Graaf has undergone a great deal of culture shock in Taiwan. For example, to prevent drivers from illegally parking in front of his house, he displayed a notice and drew a red line on the ground, but no one seemed to pay any heed. Eventually he realized that this was in fact a "power play."

At first he would confront the drivers, but when he noticed that this rarely worked, he changed his tactics. He began to address those recalcitrant rule-breakers with a polite smile, whereupon they would apologize and move their cars elsewhere. To "tackle a problem with a smile" is the way to gain the upper hand in a power play.

Despite the culture shock, Van der Graaf has found in his Asian life an inexhaustible source of inspiration. Before meeting Yang, he had actually been experiencing artist's block. Yang takes the mickey out of him: "He'd had creative constipation for ages."

Van der Graaf was awarded stipends by the Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture in 2003, 2004, and 2008. He says that this is

帕斯卡為雙親在台灣準備了舒適的住處，牆上以岳父的算盤為裝飾。

Van der Graaf has prepared a cosy place in Taiwan for his parents to stay in. The wall is decorated with his father-in-law's abacuses.

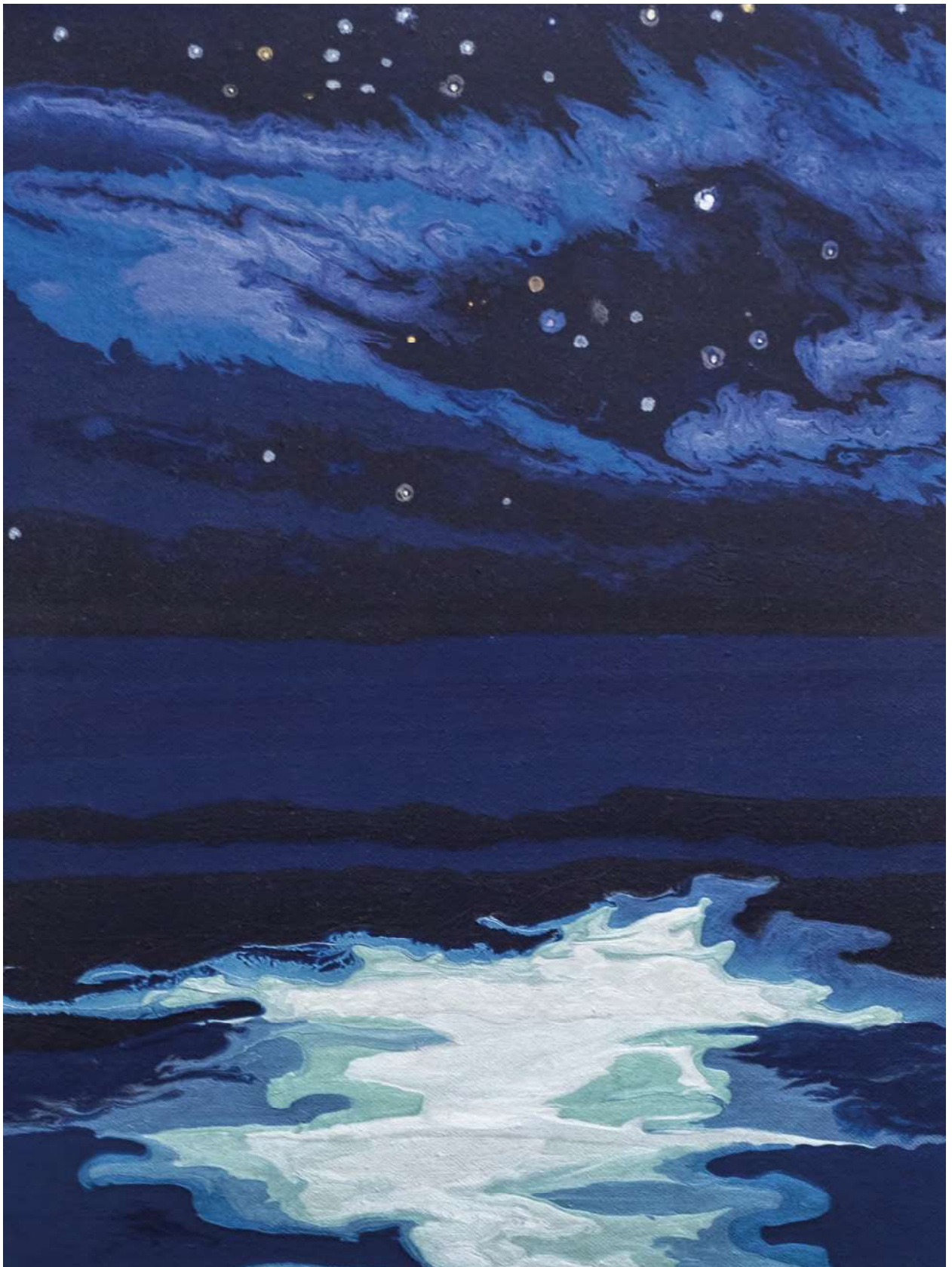
帕斯卡（右圖的小嬰兒）的哥哥與父母親的合照（左圖），小帕斯卡還在媽媽的肚子裡。

The photo on the right shows Van der Graaf as an infant, with his elder brother. His parents and brother are shown on the left. His mother was pregnant with him when this latter photo was taken.

something of a lottery for emerging artists, but he won the award three times, and his works have entered the collections of galleries such as the Museum Belvédère in the Netherlands. An early achiever, Van der Graaf accomplished a series of "Flower Pieces," highlighting floral resplendence and decay. These paintings sold well, but he found them dull.

Life's true colors

What inspires Van der Graaf here in Asia is not only love but also the rich vein of a culture so different from his own. He gains much wisdom from attending his wife's workshop on Laozi's *Tao Te Ching*, even though he reads this Taoist classic in English. "Many Westerners are captivated by *Star Wars*," Van der Graaf says. "In these films, what the director George Lucas emphasizes as 'the Force' actually coincides with the 'tao' in the *Tao Te Ching*. 'Tao' is manifested in our daily lives. For



帕斯卡在澳門創作「海」系列，此幅畫作名為〈長河漸落曉星沈〉。
Entitled *Shining Stars of Macau*, this painting is part of a series of
seascapes that Van der Graaf created in Macau.



能說荷蘭語、英語、國台語的Sky，最喜歡與父親帕斯卡一同創作。
The Van der Graafs' daughter, Sky, speaks Dutch, English, Mandarin, and Taiwanese and enjoys creating art with her father.

像第二章講的『天下皆知美之為美，斯惡已；皆知善之為善，斯不善已』兩極的概念，不像西方文明強調善惡不可能共存，老子的說法十分有邏輯，我完全可以與生活的經驗做連結。」

有了創作靈感的帕斯卡，除了創作，也為在翻修、裝潢中古屋中找到志業的楊雅雯，提供藝術洞察力的建議，猶如絕地大師「尤達」的角色。楊雅雯與帕斯卡合作申請公共藝術，由楊雅雯負責寫計劃書，帕斯卡專責創作。楊雅雯說：「我十分崇拜他，他有無窮的創意與想法，不願意為了取悅他人，改變自己。」兩人變成相契合作的事業夥伴，猶如老子道德經所描述，「音聲相和，前後相隨。」

至於在台灣有沒有不習慣的事？帕斯卡想了想說：「台灣的麵包吃起來像海棉，又加了很多糖，有的馬茲拉起士吃起來像塑膠。」但他並不在意，而是很珍惜現在所擁有的。尤其是每當有人指著他說：「你是外國人。」已經歸化為台灣人，由太太與岳父共同取名為「楊文智」的帕斯卡則可跟對方說：「我是台灣人。」

能夠在生活中陪伴可愛的兒女長大，以及享受創作的快樂，楊文智說：「搬到台灣，是我做過最好的決定了。」 □

example, Chapter 2 of the *Tao Te Ching* elucidates the concept of opposites: 'If everyone knows why beauty is beautiful, ugliness must already exist; if everyone knows why goodness is good, evil must also exist.' This is unlike the idea prevalent in Western civilization that good and evil cannot coexist. Laozi's words make a lot of sense. They fully tally with my life experience."

No longer short of inspiration, Van der Graaf not only pursues his own creative activities but also offers artistic advice to Yang, who has found her avocation in renovating and refurbishing old homes. His role is like that of Yoda, the legendary Jedi master in *Star Wars*. Yang and Van der Graaf have joined forces to apply for public art project funding: she wrote the proposal, and he concentrates on creating the artworks. Husband and wife now work closely together, reminding us of Laozi's adage: "Sound and voice harmonize with each other, front and rear follow each other."

Van der Graaf is now a Taiwanese citizen. His wife and father-in-law have given him a Chinese name: Yang Wenzhi. Van der Graaf, who enjoys spending time with his lovely son and daughter as well as creating artworks, says: "Moving to Taiwan is the best choice I've ever made." □

(Esther Tseng/photos by Kent Chuang/
tr. by Brandon Yen)