

# **Revelation · Notification – Research Solo Exhibition by Lin Pey-Chwen**

By Lai, Hsiao-chiu, Curator

## **Speculative Self-Determination · A Distinct Consciousness**

Lin Pey-Chwen created her first abstract artwork at the University of Central Missouri. The origins of her style were exhibited at No. 2 Art Space. While studying for a doctorate in Australia, she was inspired and heavily influenced by feminism, which led her to create a rich diversity of artistic concepts and works.

With continuous review and examination of her own artwork, Lin speculates on the distinct consciousness of artistic behavior and feminist determination to hit the viewer's stream of consciousness and construct novel artistic perceptions. The exhibition displays major events throughout Lin's life alongside her four major art series. The Chronology of Lin's art development was made by Thsai Pei-Yi, a graduate student of multimedia and animation arts at National Taiwan University of Arts.

Currently serving as professor of the NTUA Department of Multimedia and Animation Arts, Lin has worked for years to promote Taiwanese digital art. Recently, her Digital Art Lab organized "Illusion of the Sound of Insects," a special interactive exhibition on digital art. Merging art and science, the exhibition was a critical success that garnered much public attention.

Lin's artwork monitors the social culture of the greater environment, reflects on the destructive power of technology and civilization, and satirizes and critiques human greed and delusion. The profound concepts and explosive power of this artwork has made it a focus of attention in the global art circle.

## **The Permanent, Unchanging Theme of Life**

"Revelation · Notification – Solo Research Exhibition by Pey-Chwen Lin" presents the essence of the artistic spirit and process. Series include "Women Interpretation", "Deconstructing Patriarchy", "Back to Nature" and "Eve Clone".

While studying abroad, the artist realized that Asian women have historically relied on each other to survive patriarchal oppression. She strongly challenges society's stereotypically narrow space for creation, while realizing that women must break free of systematic restraints to develop individual styles and sow the seeds for an artistic revolution. "Antithesis and Intertext Series" and "Classic Series" present an implied, indirect criticism that nonetheless far surpasses the nudity of Western feminism.

In "Back to Nature Series," artificial nature emits heat and light energy, serving as a warning that modern civilization is but a shiny veneer that threatens to eventually swallow up and destroy the true, natural world. This exhibition also includes "Virtual Creation" and "Specimen". In "Virtual Creation", viewers participate by painting butterflies, inspiring the imagination of life as the interweaving butterflies dance gracefully. Here, Lin critiques artificial landscapes and the erroneous nature of life, prompting viewers to compare the brief illusion of artificial life with the lively authenticity of natural life. Ultimately, viewers will rethink the life theme: that which is permanent and unchanging.

"Specimen" grieves over the way humans violate and destroy nature, as the simple imagery of nature can never be artificially produced. The series shows the irony of a butterfly specimen, which is beautiful and lively but nonetheless a virtual 3D object and a product of technology.

### **Eve Clone Series Garnered All the Attention**

"Women Interpretation," "Deconstructing Patriarchy," and "Back to Nature" all contain the "chrysalis" symbol that transforms into a butterfly woman - the technologically-reproduced woman of "Eve Clone." The clone possesses the perfect body of Venus and is branded with a "beast mark of 666. Awakened by technology, it breaks out of its cocoon, gracefully turning its body and sensing that it is surrounded by looks of concern, anticipation, and desire.

Sacred music generates the atmosphere of a temple. However, faint noises can be heard in the music, satirizing that human beings try to imitate the Creator by technology. One aims at a lofty goal but falls short, and the consequence of blind ambition is the destruction of the nature. This serves as a metaphor for how society is

rife with greed, lust, environmental destruction, and warmongering, as it steadily marches toward the great tribulation prophesied in the Bible.

The focus of attention for the exhibition is the “Eve Clone Series”. This exhibition includes “Eve Clone”, “Revelation of Eve Clone”, “Portrait of Eve Clone” which presented a unique artistic style, indirect yet precise and penetrating, critiquing genetic modification or human cloning technology and questioning the ethics of exposing the origins of human life. They portray artificial life as unauthentic and destructive. This part of the exhibition fully displays Lin’s concern for all living things, realizations regarding the nature of life, respect for nature, love for humanity, and sincere personal conviction.

The Eve Clone has become a significant topic of discussion around the world, and was featured in a 40 year edition of *Chronicles of Contemporary Taiwanese Art*. Lin’s work has been exhibited at major art museums and exhibitions, including the Contemporary Art Platform in Russia, Queens Museum of Art in New York, Exit and Via Art Festivals in France, Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei, WRO Media Art Biennale, Taipei and Taiwan Art Biennale.

The Eve Clone Series has also become an international classic, highly sought-after by organizations and exhibitions in the global art field. The global women’s museum IGNITE interviewed Lin and posted her photograph on their main page. She was also introduced in a full-color feature in a famous British academic journal on female artists, as well as invited to speak at Australian lecture AGIDEA and international conferences throughout the world.

### **Understanding Life, Respecting Nature, and Loving Humankind**

Lin’s artistic attitude transcendently conveys a deep interpretation of contemporary life and culture. Each of the series expresses subversive thought and implicitly warns against the great potential for technology to destroy nature. With a sincere sense of conviction and perseverance, these works present a unified theme, while pursuing philosophical artistry through an ultimate expression.