

Art Stage 2018 special exhibition  
**Poesy Empathy - Hidden Messages**

Compilation of reviews & comments on the artist and the project

For more information:

Contact : Ms. Petula Richardsen  
petularichardsen@gmail.com

## **SINGAPORE**

Name of Artist : **Poesy Liang** 梁小詩  
Countries of Origin : **Malaysia/Taiwan**  
Title of Artwork : **Poesy Empathy - Hidden Messages**  
Medium of Artwork : Experiential installation  
Year of Production : 2014 - 2018  
Dimensions : 13.5m x 6m x 4m  
Language : English

### ***Poesy was invited to present a social message with Art Stage 2018 in Singapore***

The interdisciplinary artist's latest offering at the Marina Bay Sands received rave reviews and attracted a thick crowd for the 4 days that Art Stage was held in the convention halls.

Her special exhibition promised "**A whimsical walkthrough installation to trigger an awakening of extraordinary abilities**" without offering further explanation. A production of mostly blind crew were deliberately concealed for impact and surprise.

Date : January 25-28, 2018

Venue : Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre

**BOOTH VISITORS**

“Poesy Empathy has much going for it, exploring our otherwise under-used senses of smell, touch and hearing. The true meaning of art - the experience.”

**Chris Yap, artist, 49, Singapore**

“I flew back from Beijing to queue 1.5 hours to get into the Poesy Empathy booth. No regrets!”

**Patrick Chen, Area Manager of Compressport Asia, 52 yrs, Singapore**

“The exhibition was a real eye-opener (no pun intended).”

**Matthew Lau, student, 19, Malaysia**

To me, this project took art beyond five senses experience. By being really open, seeing from the heart and sensing everything beyond the eyes, it opened up genuine human connections. It connected even with ourselves in that moment. Empathy is a gateway to compassion and Poesy Empathy simply demonstrated that for the audience.

**Jess Tansutat, life coach, 42, Singapore/Thailand**

“Poesy is an artist of diverse talents. She never stop amazing me with her new projects. Her latest Poesy Empathy project is yet another new dimension of how to design an immersive experience of empathy for the visually impaired.”

**Jack Sim, Founder of World Toilet Organisation,  
Creator of UN World Toilet Day, 61, Singapore**

“I had a chance to appreciate Poesy’s experimental art at Art Stage Singapore 2018. This piece of art has multiple layers from social, psychological and artistic perspectives. At a glance, it seems to deliver a shocking effect being led by the blind. However after the journey is complete, the reality hit you hard with awe, that very moment lead you to multiple awakenings, both public and private. Definitely hope to see more work similar to this particular one from Poesy. This is just great! I wish Poesy to be invited to major museum shows around the world.”

**Clara Shin, CEO of BbuzzArt, 38, Korea**

“My ex-colleague Zaimoon who is half blind was working in the Poesy Empathy booth. From my experience, she is a very fast worker. Even people with sight cannot catch up with her.”

**Tang, security team of exhibition venue, 42, Singapore**

“It was my first time visiting an experiential exhibition, an eye opener which uses all other senses except my eyes to view Poesy's work. With the darkness, i was amazed how all my other senses kick in the help me see her amazing work! I was led by a blind person thru the experience only to know it at the end of the tour! Just amazing!! Really, thank you for the experience! Great work, keep it up!!!”

**Tony Chua, Sales Manager of Catalyste, 49, Singapore**

Through Poesy Empathy, the multi-talented Poesy reminds us to live life with compassion, especially towards those with disabilities. Well done Poesy!

**Patricia Chang, Regional Head of Client Management, Life & Health, Allianz Re, 48,  
Singapore**

I must say it was unique. I did not know what to expect. When I journeyed through, I felt deeply touched & became greatly aware of the sense of feel & touch. In the dark, one almost feels scared but the smooth voice of my assigned guide was soothing & reassuring. More people should experience this & be so thankful for whatever faculties they have & to have greater empathy and understanding for those with challenges.

**Angela Lee, lawyer, 71, Singapore**

**INDUSTRY HEAVYWEIGHTS**

"Poesy was producing a lot of cats when I met her.

However she spends most of her time upholding a number of social messages through projects based on her core theme of humanity & media reform. Over the years I have been impressed by her ingenuity & skillful means to turn around adversities, and create impact with her artistic activities. I personally look forward to see her prolific attempt to bring back the traditional Asian family values through an upcoming installation on filial piety addressing the modern audience with a combination of eastern and western contexts. She is persuasive with her self-narration and tells a powerful story to offer the world a message of healing."

*Dr. Uli Sigg, industrialist, former Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China, owner of Sigg Collection (largest collection of Chinese Contemporary Art worldwide), Founder of Chinese Contemporary Art Award, 72, Switzerland*

"This is not my first time viewing Poesy's work. The first time viewing Poesy's work was on a journey in the rain in Switzerland, when Poesy unrolled her scroll of the story, the story of a girl. The story continued through time and space. I came to Art Stage to connect with local collectors from the region. My first time coming to Art Stage was at its inaugural edition. Art Stage Singapore is original, fresh, sincere, dynamic and connective. Art Stage is a stage for local artists, for regional artists and for international artists. When I planned to come to Singapore, Poesy was the first person I contacted. She told me immediately that she would have a show. My first stop this time was also at Poesy's booth. Her art form is what we call installation art and performance art. She wanted me to experience. I let go of my time, my eye sight, to be in the blackbox, led by her blind colleagues. In the room of darkness, I touched, smelled, connected, walked, searched, imagined, guessed, spoke, communicated.... Every action, every word, every touch was special, every step is no longer normal, it is becoming something beyond its ordinary meaning and purpose. In the darkness, we discover our potentials, we hear others, we depend on the dependent origination, we imagined..."

*Xiaoming Zhang, global modern/contemporary art specialist, 49, USA/China*

***Why did you invite Poesy to present the social message through this special exhibition?***

"Art Stage Singapore is not only a market platform. As the leading art fair in Southeast Asia, still a very emerging region, Art Stage has the clear goal to be Southeast Asia's bridge to the ceiling of international art world and, in this context, also to foster and support good young artists of the region. I know and observe Poesy and her artistic and social engagement since a certain time and I'm convinced that now she's ready for a next, international step.

Therefore it was nothing than natural that I invited her to Art Stage. And knowing her conceptual way of thinking and working, it was also clear for me that she has to showcase not only some works but to present herself with an interesting and comprehensive project. I must say, she fulfilled my demands in a very impressive and successful way."

*Lorenzo Rudolf, Founder of Art Stage, Switzerland*

***You received a complaint from an animal activist.***

***Was there a serious issue around the dog?***

***Will you allow a live animal to be on exhibit in future?***

"A well treated dog becomes her patron's best friend. And in the case of blind people, a well trained dog becomes her blind patron's partner and guide who will not leave her side. Poesy's socially very engaged art project worked with blind people, and the dog was the blind trainer's guide; and, logically, the dog wanted to always be at her side. So, being a real artist, Poesy integrated the dog into the art project, enabling this way that the dog and it's blind patron could be all the time together; and both were very happy about it. Before we start to criticize something, we should first take some time to know the facts and to reflect them. Then we all would come to the conclusion, that the real mistake, the real cruelty, would be to separate the blind person and her best friend/partner, her dog. And if the dog would be able to speak, she would probably tell you very clearly the same thing ..."

*Lorenzo Rudolf, Founder of Art Stage, Switzerland*

"Poesy specially designed the role for me to host in cosplay. It was highly challenging because I also had to manage the crazy crowd outside the blackbox. There was a long line everyday. We were tired by the end of each day but it was fun and I learned so much! The teamwork was just amazing and I am glad to have this opportunity to work with blind Singaporeans."

*Hana, partially blind host of Poesy Empathy front of house, 28, Malaysia*

"It has been a mad rush to get the blind team together - hardly one month, the fact that we pulled through was just amazing. It was such a joy that we took this challenge. As a guide team, we worked very well. When we see each other in need, we will go in and lend a helping hand. Our teamwork coordination was seamless inside and outside. I wonder when we can ever assemble such a team again. We delivered. I am very happy that Poesy has chosen this topic which will help the blind community in Singapore, and at large. Empathy is what the world needs."

*Lee Lee, blind trainer of Poesy Empathy guide team, 50, Singapore*

I love it. I only wish we had more time to show more people. My Singaporean wife is totally blind while I am partially impaired. It is important work to be creating the awareness with the public about blindness. Although we were extremely busy receiving the throngs of people spilling into our blackbox, I didn't feel tired at all. Thank you Poesy for doing this for the blind, whatever made you do it, you did good!

*Marzuq, Poesy Empathy partially blind guide, 63, USA*

"Great team work!"

*Hendry, Poesy Empathy partially blind guide, 36, Singapore*

"I am glad to be part of the Poesy Empathy team. I like meeting new friends and having new experiences. I also like to share with the general public about abilities in disability. If there's a project like this again, I look forward to it."

*Robert, Poesy Empathy partially blind guide, 52, Singapore*

"I only worked for 1 day, made new friends and met an old colleague who remembered me from 20 years ago."

*Zaimoon, Poesy Empathy partially blind guide, 53, Singapore*

"It's an honour to be part of the team. Definitely an eye-opening experience to work with the visually impaired (fully and partially) team mates. There was a massive crowd everyday."

*Mar Ibrahim, Poesy Empathy sighted production assistant, 34, Malaysia*

"Unbelievable twists and how the journey unfolds for this empathy based production. I am grateful that I was given the chance to get to know more people. Tapping attentively into my other senses beside my sight ability, and using all of them happily. I salute the disabled people who rise above to lead their lives more independently and well enough. May we grow more with honesty, kindness, compassion, love, and compromise within ourselves. Thank you to the artist, Poesy Liang; for this opportunity."

*PuiSee Chu, Poesy Empathy sighted production assistant, 39, Malaysia*