

、 空 FROM EXISTENCE TO EMPTINESS

Photography Exhibition by Ven. Chang Lin

常霖法師攝影展

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前 言

更了解「家」的

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正意義

: Foreword

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Not until after I left my conventional family to become a monk did I gain a better understanding of the real meaning of 'family': Everyone is a family to themselves. If your body and mind are in harmony, you are a complete family to yourself. Otherwise, you can hardly build a complete and harmonious family with others.

The key to good photography lies in the ability to capture the unseen, i.e. the reflection of your inner self. If you feel the world with your heart, you will see various families in different combinations in each and every corner, but not just humans.

Everywhere, including ruins or old and dilapidated structures, has a beauty worth appreciating. Unlimited creativity can be unleashed even in a limited space if you pay attention. Opportunities can be found even in times of difficulty if you maintain awareness. In fact, subjects for photography are everywhere.

The works featured in this exhibition were printed on iron plates, which will be rusted and finally destroyed. We should not get attached to them as everything goes through the stages of 'formation, existence, destruction and emptiness'.

Ven. Chang Lin

前言 | Foreword

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法師攝影展」。

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是世間必然現象的道理

藉由鐵片上的天然侵蝕變化 作品以家庭關係為主題

懂得感恩和放下 色色的苦樂境界 五蘊悉從生, 不論苦樂 無法而不造。」 訓練自己用超 壞空」與「喜

有無限拓展的空間 心態迎接生命中 自 願大家都 能接受無

: From the Abbot

FIND PEACE IN ACCEPTANCE OF IMPERMANENCE

It is an honour for Tsz Shan Monastery to present 'From Existence to Emptiness', an unique photography exhibition showcasing the works of Ven. Chang Lin on family relationships. Visitors are expected to realise and feel from the natural erosion and change of the iron plates on which the images were printed that everything in life and in the universe is constantly changing, and that 'impermanence' is a universal truth.

We need to develop right understanding and right views. Having recognised the changing nature of things, we should cherish what we have at this moment and train our minds to look at the four kalpas and emotions in the world with a detached attitude. As Hua Yen Sutra says, "The mind is like an artist who can paint the entire world. From this the five aggregates arise as well as all dharmas." All sorts of sweet and sour experiences around us are created by our own minds. No matter positive or negative changes may arise, we should learn to be grateful and let go to find peace by training our minds.

Life is full of infinite opportunities for development. May all of you find peace in acceptance of impermanence, let go of attachments in your minds and be open to your challenges ahead.

Ven. Thong Hong

: From the Architects

CHANGE? EMBRACE IT!

'From Existence to Emptiness' is the theme of this exhibition. In reality, nobody and nothing is permanent. If we truly realise this truth, we will treasure every moment. Without holding onto permanence, we can find peace and happiness.

Ven. Chang Lin's works on 'Family' highlight the keys to harmonious family relationships. The images and texts were printed with new technology on iron plates that get rusted over time.

The exhibit installation comprising six pieces was designed to express the same theme of harmony with nature and the four stages of formation, existence, destruction and emptiness. Construction waste was used to minimise the damages to our environment. We allow these materials, like the exhibits, to change with time.

The exhibition tells us the truth: 'An exhibition appears when there are sufficient conditions, but it will change and finally disappear.' In the process of preparation, everything related to the exhibition, from its venue, its date to its materials, is constantly changing. Having flowed and danced with all the changes along, we realise that every change is the best change. May this exhibition inspire each and every one of you too.

Corrin Chan & Sarah Mui

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話

變幻

實就是沒有任何 - 會執求 一切不變 這道理 便會珍惜身邊一 才會自在快樂 ·、物是永恆不變,這個展覽的主題,

空的過程 **1**希望展示 建築 一影像和 人融洽 的形式能表達與天地共存 文字 相處之道 **轉廢為能,把這些廢料裝」減低對地球的破壞,我**以能表達與天地共存,成 在展覽裝置設計方面、 2,並用新科技在鐵片以「家」為創作主題,

藝術裝置

友 切 會改 有所都 悟最 好 的 亦希望 修

11



: In the family, there should be allowance rather than indulgence

A beautiful piece of music is composed of high and low notes. This is a form of allowance that creates harmony. Some parents tell their children not to go to work out of love after learning their children's hardship at work. This is a form of indulgence that turns love into harm.

Compassion and wisdom go hand in hand, like the two wings of a bird. If one wing is missing, the bird loses its balance.

This photo was taken in the vicinity of a Buddhist monastery in South Korea where stone stacking is an ancient custom passed down from generation to generation. During the process, one can practice meditation and focus. These stones looked like a family of four meditating leisurely in the mountain to me. Backlight from the side made the subject more prominent.





: In the family, there should be acceptance rather than sufferance

The components of Chinese characters indicate certain meanings. For example, the character ' 忍 (to tolerate)' is made up of two components, with ' 刃 (blade)' lying on top of '心 (heart)'. Another character '恕 (to forgive)' is also made up of two components, namely '如 (as)' and '心 (heart)'. As an old Chinese saying goes, why tolerate when you can forgive. This is easy to understand.

Only by accepting both the strengths and weaknesses of family members can we get along well with them.

After a heavy snowfall, the new white blanket made the winter trees more welldefined and their relationship clearer. In terms of composition, the pavilion in front became a picture frame for the trees.







如果它 們互相支配 就很容易被分別折互相支配,便會散囚為它們互相支持。

充滿生命 三不是自己想給的 應該是他們需要

: In the family, there should be support rather than control

It is easy to break one chopstick but hard to break a bunch of chopsticks that support each other. However, if they try to dominate each other and fail as a bunch, they can easily be broken one by one after scattered.

Each piece of wood in Donghaksa Temple in South Korea, full of life, has stood the test of time in supporting the historical architecture together.

We should give our family members the love they need (i.e. support), rather than the love we want to give (i.e. control).





自 己 同 這樣對方

: Family members should ask after, but not question against each other

When we express different opinions to our family members, we must bear in mind that our intention is to help them. It will be easier for them to accept our opinions if we use caring words, rather than bad languages, deceitful words and lies.

For example, when I used to teach photography, I would not comment a student's work as "poor". Instead I would say, "There is still much room for improvement."

This photo was taken at Plum Village during the Winter Retreat in France. A pot of flower was placed in front of my room's window. Feeling at peace, I used the macro mode of my compact camera to capture the flower with a shallow depth of field, which is generally considered to be difficult to achieve with a compact camera.







訴 成 境

: Family members should confide in, but not complain to each other

In voicing out our dissatisfaction with family members, we should not complain, "You have never done that to me before." We can try to tell them, "Things change with time, but I will be gratified if you can treat me like before."

It is best to give without asking for

Backlight highlighted two family members contrasting in size on the wall of Tsz Shan Monastery. The big one looked like complaining against and lecturing the small one.

anything in return in the family. In fact, disappointment comes from expectations.





子立的

: Family members will feel more comfortable and at ease with their own private space

Everyone is an individual living their own lives. We should bear in mind that in a harmonious family, neither the relationship between parents and children nor the one between husband and wife is possessive.

Meanwhile, we should avoid over-reliance on a particular family member, which can become a source of pressure for the latter. The fear of losing someone we rely on will The grove in Gak Su Temple on Lantau Island gave us an opportunity to get close to the nature. The new leaves sprouting on the trees showed us the beauty of being carefree, at ease and comfort.

also make us worry.



難以獨自

: What matters most in growing old hand in hand is the process, not the result

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邮的老夫老妻

When you hold your loved one's hand too tightly, you will become emotionally attached to and dependent on that person. If the person you can't live without dies, you will feel grief and sorrow at the loss.

Good communication is the key for couples to grow old together hand in hand. Two autumn leaves leaned against each other, just like an inseparable and admirable old couple. Although the aperture of a compact camera is generally not wide enough to produce shallow depth of field at a long focal length, such effect can still be achieved at a right distance to subject.



: Everyone in the family is equally important, and every moment of life should not be ignored

The branches and leaves of trees all grow in different directions, yet their roots remain as one. Every single thing in the universe is interdependent with everything else. You will only get into unnecessary troubles if you keep weighting this and that.

Every outcome is the best possible outcome if you do the right thing at the right time.

This photo of distant trees was taken at sunrise. I used the light reflected from a puddle of water in the foreground to create an abstract piece of work.







: Love and tolerance, rather than right and wrong, is the key to a harmonious family relationship

When family members have different views or beliefs that clash, try to put yourself in others' shoes. If you insist on winning the argument at any cost, it will only stir up the emotions of others. It is better to lose the argument than to lose the relationship.

It is best to cool down your emotions first before engaging in further conversation.

Two wooden chairs facing against each other gave me a sense of confrontation at first glance. The sunlight filtering through the trees made the photo more interesting.







乎你肯不肯去留意而已

In times of adversity, our minds whizz away like a washing machine, going round and round with twist and collision of thoughts. However, after the chaos, things become clearer and brighter.

Every difficulty and challenge we face in our lives is an opportunity to learn and grow.

This photo was taken on a beach during typhoon. People tend to take photos in good weather. In fact, you can get something different under various weather conditions. It depends on whether you are willing to pay attention to the surroundings.





個完整的家

: One should only remember but not resent the past, even after a family relationship comes to an end

Everything changes and this natural phenomenon is inevitable. The addition or loss of family members are no exception. The problem is how to adjust our mentality to cope with these naturally occurring changes.

If our body and mind are in harmony, we are still a complete family to ourselves.

A spot of sunlight flashing across the background shadow highlighted this little lonely flower, making it more vivid and vibrant.





: Leaving home, the home of affliction, to start monastic life is not an act of shrinking responsibilities, but rather of shouldering more responsibilities

Responding to afflictions is a part of human nature, so most people in the world dwell in the home of affliction, and most well-known operas, poems, novels and movies are all about afflictions. 'The Butterfly Lovers' and 'Romeo and Juliet' are some of the most popular stories and plays of all time. Responding to afflictions usually triggers anger and anxiety, which are detrimental to body and mind.

I left my conventional (or material-self) family to become a monk and join a greater-self family. Although I do not live under the same roof with my family, our tie is still maintained.

The wall of a reservoir catchwater showed us the secret and divine workmanship of nature. As long as we open our hearts, we can see the beauty of nature everywhere.





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According to a survey conducted in Hong Kong in 2013, over half of the families in Hong Kong relied on text messaging. The reliance should be even more pronounced now, and people are becoming increasingly alienated from each other. Nearly half of my married friends got divorced. This reflects that relationships in most families are disharmonious.

In addition to recording events, photography actually plays another important role in developing emotional connections between family members.

After a quarrel, a wife went to the bedroom to pack up her belongings for return to her parents' home, and made a lot of noises. After a while, all the noises were silenced. Her husband found her flipping through the family photo album in the bedroom and joined in. They became reconciled after the album evoked all their sweet and happy memories.

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> making us even more difficult to get along with others.

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A family is formed when members live together as a result of the union of causes and conditions, which applies to both humans and things.

People find it hard to put the above principles, albeit all too familiar, into practice. They will find it easier if their self-awareness is enhanced through continued daily meditation practice.

It is good to develop a common interest among family members. For example, photography is an activity suitable for all ages. By sharing something in common and spending more time together, family members can foster harmonious relationship and have greater emotional interactions.

In our daily lives, we should not try to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of family members. On the one hand, it feels bad to live in grievances. On the other hand, it creates a halo effect and inflates our ego,

後語 | Afterword

可與自用

在生活中禪佐

便是在生活之中禪修。察到自己的心念而不容易分心,果生活中做任何事情,都可以覺禪修不一定指在禪堂裡打坐,如

會,對身心都會有很大幫助。 標不斷地練習;假如每天早上起間,重點是要把身心放鬆,持法,開始時其實不需要坐太長時話,開始時其實不需要坐太長時靜坐是練習禪修很好的一種方

: Zen Practice in Our Daily Life

Zen practice is not only confined to meditating in a meditation room. If we can be aware of what we are doing at every moment without being distracted, then we are practicing Zen in our daily lives.

Meditation is a very good way to practice Zen. We don't have to sit for too long at the start. Just relax our body and mind and practice continuously. Meditating for a short session every morning after waking up and every night before sleeping is good for both body and mind.

在生活中禪修 | Zen Practice in Our Daily Life

: At Ease with **Body and Mind** Zen practice is a great way to calm our body and mind in the midst of negative energy such as anxiety and insecurity prevailing in Hong Kong in recent years, as well as troubles and turbulences arising in our life journeys. The tickets for 'Zen Meditation with One Thousand People' had been sold out within the first hour for two years in a row. This shows that meditation is well-received by Hong Kong people nowadays.

In the freely distributed book 'At Ease with Body and Mind', different guests share their ways to find peace of mind. Most importantly, some simple meditation methods that can be practiced in daily life are introduced in a non-religious way to enhance readers' mindfulness and awareness for peace of body and mind.

We are happy to supply this book to institutions, schools, hospitals and other organisations for free distribution. Anyone interested in helping with the distribution can complete an application form at http://goo.gl/forms/ydjeKYzUT4. (Corporate application only. Interested individuals can find out where to get a copy of the book from the link.) For enquiry please call (852) 2834 1000.



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身心兩相安 | At Ease with Body and Mind





ABOUT TSZ SHAN MONASTERY

Tsz Shan Monastery is a Chinese Buddhist monastery established for the preservation of the inheritance of the Dharma preached by Śākyamuni Buddha. We hold the conviction that Buddha nature is possessed by all sentient beings. By going through constant hearing, reflecting and practicing, right knowledge and right views could be cultivated and this should, in turn, lead us to the cessation of defilements, the achievement of merit and wisdom and, most importantly, the attainment of peace and happiness. By following Guan Yin's (Avalokiteśvara's) spirit of boundless compassion and benevolence in benefiting mankind, the Monastery will strive to propagate the Dharma and enhance the

well-being of others. Through organizing Dharma talks and lectures, spiritual practices, experiential programmes, educational activities, and community services, the Monastery is dedicated to responding to our spiritual needs and serving society through the perfected fusion of the Dharma.

The idea for the development of Tsz Shan Monastery germinated with Mr. Li Kashing, who as of mid-2015 has contributed over HK\$1.7 billion from his personal Foundation to cover the development and daily operating costs of the Monastery.

(,利益大眾。 就誠基金會總捐資逾十七億港元。護持正設資金及日常行政經費,至 2015 年中,李弘山寺由李嘉誠先生發心興建,捐助全部建

慈山寺簡介 | About Tsz Shan Monastery





常霖法 師簡介

攝影師

亦經常

ABOUT VEN. CHANG LIN

Ven. Chang Lin, formerly known as Alain Yip, is a reputable professional photographer in Hong Kong who graduated from the Hong Kong Polytechnic (now Hong Kong Polytechnic University) studying Design. With nearly 50 years of experience in photography, he is a Founder and Honorary Member of the 'Hong Kong Institute of Professional Photographers'. His works were widely featured in various media, exhibitions and his photography publications. He also taught photography courses to share his experience with others.

In 2009, he decided to give up all his fame and fortune and went to Master Guo Ru's temple in Taiwan to start his monastic life. Ven. Chang Lin now leads meditation retreats around the world, helping others incorporate meditation into their daily lives.

Publications of Ven. Chang Lin include: 'Meeting the Buddha in India' (2011), 'The Rain Always Flourishes the Forests' (2013), 'Work of Photography Zen 2014', 'The Rain Always Flourishes the Forests 2' (2015), 'Every Photo is an Illusion -From a Photographer to a Monk' (2015), 'Work of Photography Zen 2015', 'At Ease with Body & Mind' (2015), 'Photography - Family' (2016) and 'From Existence to Emptiness' (2016).

禪作品 《攝影禪作品集 $2014\,\rangle$ 象

從葉青霖到釋

《常降甘霖》

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· 在世界各

住壞空》

常霖法師簡介 | About Ven. Chang Lin

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