

WIP H In Between Worlds



REGION: Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Documentary | Digital Format | Cantonese | 104mins

DIRECTOR:

CHAN Ying-wai

PRODUCER:

LI Man-chi

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

BUDGET: US\$ 100,000

SECURED BUDGET: US\$ 6,400

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2010 *Landscape on the Other Side: Hong Kong Cinematographer Bill Wong*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

He paints through fundamental dilemmas — individual versus society, traditional versus contemporary, market versus independence. Each of Wilson Shieh's brushstrokes marks the landscape of Hong Kong.

SYNOPSIS

“Art as Freedom” is the belief of artist Wilson Shieh. He combines traditional Chinese *gong-bi* (fine-line) techniques and Western painting styles. Growing up in Hong Kong, an always-changing city, Shieh explores the Hong Kong identities in his works. He has made his name in the international contemporary art market and is now at his career peak. Wilson has opened his studio to let us follow closely how he creates, against the backdrop of turbulent Hong Kong since 2014. His contradictory character drives him to confront fundamental dilemmas—traditional versus contemporary, individual versus society, market versus independence, which permeate his aesthetic. And now, when Hong Kong is at its most strained and polarised state; how will the artist continue his path?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have always wanted to document Hong Kong artists of our times through my own craft, the moving image. Wilson Shieh is an artist whom I appreciate and even cherish. Some claim Hong Kong as “a borrowed place, a borrowed time”. Artistic creation has been like words written on sand; nothing lasts. Against an art world chasing fashionable trends, Shieh seeks traditions from both East and West and he refreshes both. This makes him unprecedented: “For these many years, I have no companion and grope my way alone. My path in art is kind of lonesome.” Shieh was reduced to silence after this opening speech in one of his exhibitions. Artists are conscious and sensitive of themselves and of their environments. To read an artist's creations, one should interweave the artist's personal stories with his times: Shieh feels unsatisfied in his turbulent Hong Kong society, and is now considering how to throw himself into this very moment of his hometown, makes his statement about our times with his meticulous brushstrokes. Against the social and political unrest, how shall an artist live with his art? This is a story of Hong Kong, also a glimpse of beauty leading us into the future.

DIRECTOR

CHAN Ying-wai

Chan Ying-wai studied filmmaking and fine arts in Hong Kong. His documentary works include *Humming in the Journey* (Short film, 2003), tracing the inner world of poet Wordic. *Landscape on the Other Side: Hong Kong Cinematographer Bill Wong*

(2010) screened in a tribute to two artists at the Hong Kong Film Archive. His short, *Someone's Running* (2008), received the Best Film Award (Open Category) and the Big Wave Award in 3rd Fresh Wave Short Film Competition. His recent works include *Blackbirds* (2020), a commissioned Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) "Below the Lion Rock" programme. He is a lecturer at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

PRODUCER

LI Man-chi

Li was born in Hong Kong and graduated from the School of Film and Television of Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. She has worked in Phoenix Satellite Television as a director for a number of social issues programmes and medium-length documentaries; and has served as editor in RTHK Television Section. Her works in editing include *Landscape on the Other Side: Hong Kong Cinematographer Bill Wong* (Documentary, 2010) and *Ten Years: Self-immolator* (Drama, 2015).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

At Odds Workshop

Founded in 2013, At Odds Workshop is a visual and conceptual creative studio specialising in local short films and feature films. We also make feature-length documentaries that focus on local artists' portraits. The founder of At Odds Workshop, Chan Ying-wai is a director and sound designer who has a wide range of experience in independent filmmaking and various disciplines in art. He now teaches at the School of Film and Television, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.