

Pang-Chieh Hsu

ARTIST STATEMENT

Pang-Chieh Hsu is a representational artist whose works express his fascination with the ways in which natural light illuminates objects. He is especially interested in capturing how sunlight strikes objects in ways that make these objects appear to glow from within or glare.

In the medium of oil painting, he is currently working on a series of paintings *Paper Money*. It is the reminiscence of the culture that he was born. In the first stage of the development, he extracts the abstract qualities of the depicted objects and reveals the primitive essence of the subject. The experiment presents the representational images with an abstract prospect. In these paintings, the object that he depicted is paper money, which is made to communicate with gods or underworld spirits in traditional Taiwanese culture. It symbolizes death and wealth. In the early period of the series, the paper money has been singled out from its ritual setting. It stands out as what its original being is, including the colors, the texture, the shape, the volume, the pattern on the surface, the interaction with the light and the position in the space, not the cultural or functional purpose it bears. It implies that although we humans serve various functions in the society, we should not forget to appreciate the true essence within ourselves. In the next step of the development, he would like to compare the symbolic values of the object in different light and space.

The artist would continue his exploration on light. His next step is to incorporate landscapes in the compositions and apply the techniques of impressionists who show a vibrant pallet of colors in art. On his canvas, the borders of human perceptions on death, wealth, and sex are pushed further. With the interaction of different sources of light, a new horizon will be broadened in the contemporary painting.