

Preface
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In the academic year of 2021/2022, the Department of English at HSUHK continued to collaborate with HKAGE in adjudicating poems submitted by students in Hong Kong. The quality of the submissions is high. And our adjudicators have had a great time in assessing the entries. This year, the themes are 'Beauty and Love,' 'Honesty,' and 'Creativity.' Our team is pleased to read many outstanding entries under these themes. These outstanding pieces, of which I am going to highlight a few, are special insofar as they do not succumb to clichés or hearsay. They record authentic tones and emotions of humankind without falling into naivety or sentimentalism.

In *An Amazing Party*, the poet creates a series of carnivalesque sketches of creative figures. They are Mozart, Gauss, Einstein, Rubik, Van Gogh, Shakespeare, Aristotle, and Steve Jobs. These sketches are light-hearted and not unrelated to these figures' real lives. Coming from different historical eras, they are juxtaposed like a cinematic montage. Their lives intersect and even inspire each other. Perhaps this unexpected and even unwelcomed encounter is where creativity finds its hotbed.

Be Honest with Yourself is a candid reflection on the importance of being honest. Not to the others, but thyself. The poem touches on the complexity of the human mind. When one feels weak, it often seems easier to seek help from the outside world rather than from oneself. But the poem suggests that this could be a sign of escapism. 'Be honest with yourself,/ When other let you down./ You'll be the only one you need/ When no one else's around.' This poem should be read by students as well as parents. That honesty is truthfulness to oneself is a lesson that even the latter may forget.

The theme 'Beauty and Love' encompasses a wide range of topics in our everyday lives. But what is particularly encouraging is the increasing number of poems that highlight the poet's affection towards wildlife. In *Dying Elephant*, for instance, the poet captures the darkness of the money world by focusing on the avaricious gaze of the hunters. The increasing concerns over the well-being of our mother nature can be glimpsed in some of the winning titles: *Dandelion*, *Save the Wilderness*, *A Special Bond*, *Reawakening on a Winter's Day*, and *A Colourful Epiphany*.

Under the 'free selection' category, we witness some truly unique and experimental entries. One of them is a reinterpretation of the Chinese legend of Chang E. The poet uses a first-person narrative to depict the psychology of the moon goddess. The poem reinvents the tradition of myth writing. Traditionally, a myth avoids drawing an inner self for the hero or heroine to create a stable and action-based character. But here the reader is invited to study Chang E inside-out. Despite her solitude, the goddess can finally be liberated from the thousand-year-old tale.

I would like to thank my colleagues for their years of dedication in taking up the adjudication work. Most of all, I want to thank all the students who have participated in the Award. Your poems have inspired us. With the brilliant use of language and heartening moments found in your work, I see moments of hope and happiness. They are beautiful gems for reminding all of us how promising our future will be.

Keep a copy of this anthology as a treat. I trust you will be delighted when reading it decades later.