

Budiman Ong

Budiman Ong is the founder of Ong Cen Kuang, a lighting design company. After his study in Gray's School of Art, England and Robert Gordon University in Scotland, he returned to Indonesia to work for a jewelry design company John Hardy, under guidance of Guy Bedarida who previously was the head designer for Van Cleef and Arpel. Budiman established his own company in Bali in 2008 and has been driven by a material-based principle in creating original, handcrafted lighting fixtures. His Asian background and his western education shape his aesthetics and knowledge in design. Focusing in handcrafted products, using best material and empowering local workers, he also creates furniture collection.

Interview

1. In a short paragraph, please describe yourself

I am Budiman Ong. I am a designer maker as I design through making. As long as I can remember, I have always enjoy making things with my hands. For me, there is no way around it and this way of exploration bring the best in me and the materials I work with.

2. Is there a particular incident during your childhood that steer you in this artistic journey ?

Not one particular incident. I just have so much thirst for crafts and I think being born in a strong Chinese community with the necessity of folding lots of paper for ceremonial purpose and happy memories with paper lantern on mooncake festival also sharpen my curiosity.

3. Thank you for being part of 'CHARCOAL FOR CHILDREN'. It is wonderful to see children and working artists interacting together. Why do you participate and support this program ?

You can say I believe in this program and I wish that there is similar program exist when I was growing up.

4. What's the idea behind your session ?

I would like to share my design process which for me is my core. It is not the most direct way of creating. It is alive, fluid and unpredictable and most of the time surprise me in the best possible way and direct me to ideas that I did not think before. I think it is definitely worth sharing.

5. What do you observe during the session ?

I was worried that my session might be too hard for the children that was attending as they are younger than expected but I was happy to be wrong. they were also very enthusiast about it and kept asking question. definitely a great experience for me.

6. What is the title of your collaborative artwork ? and what it is about ?

'Broken Symmetry'

Repetition and Symmetry appeals to our visual sense, however perfect mathematical symmetry is predictable. Our minds also like surprises and we consider broken symmetry to be more beautiful.