

視覺以外, 用聽覺、觸覺和嗅覺來攝影 Out of Sight: Shooting Photos through Hearing, Touch and Smell

Sightfeeling - Fishing Tsoi

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如果一天失去了視力，你能想像自己還可以拍照嗎？有六個年輕人數年前組成機構「盲蹤」，他們成為視障人士的眼睛，推廣「盲攝」。成員之一的蔡蓓文（Fishing）說，透過盲攝，他們想告訴大眾，攝影也可以「非視覺主導」同時向大眾直接傳遞視障人士的所思所想，呈現他們最真實的生活，打破旁人對殘疾人士的刻板印象。

If you lose your vision one day, do you think you would still be able to take photos? "Sightfeeling" was founded a few years ago by six youngsters who promote "blind photography" by acting as the eyes of the visually impaired. Fishing, one of the co-founders, said they wanted to show the public that photography can be "non-visual centric". They aspire to break the stereotypes of disabled people by directly conveying the thoughts of the visually impaired to the public and showing how they really live.

旅程的起點：斯里蘭卡

「盲蹤」的起源，來自2017年的一次義遊。2016年巴西奧運，一名視障攝影師João Maia da Silva在奧運拍攝的照片引起全世界注目，當中也吸引了Fishing的目光，「當刻好震撼，原來視障人士都可以拍到漂亮的照片。」她在想，有沒有可能在接下來計劃的義遊裡，也加入「非視覺」的攝影？想法很快付諸行動，她聯同五位喜愛攝影的年輕人在準備行程期間認識了一群香港的視障攝影愛好者，一頭熱血在香港發起眾籌，買來幾部數碼相機，跑到斯里蘭卡教當地盲人攝影。

回港後，六人也未停下腳步。他們展出當地視障人士的作品，獲得廣泛好評。自此正式成立「盲蹤」，推動視障人士攝影工作。你可能會問，盲人怎樣攝影？Fishing解釋，每次攝影時，健視人士會擔任引路及口述影像角色，以一對一的形式，為視障人士描述身邊的環境，再憑他們自

己的認知與感覺去捕捉畫面，「例如去到清境農場，首先我們會描述有一大片草地、高低起伏、後邊有山脈；草地上有隻羊，再告訴他水平、光暗、目標物位置、讓他們知道大概的畫面，再問視障朋友他想拍什麼。」

聽覺、觸覺和嗅覺可比視覺更敏銳

視障人士雖失去了視覺，也可用聽覺、觸覺和嗅覺來攝影，而沒有視覺的世界，有時也令人出奇不意。「盲蹤」有次組隊到台灣，在跨年晚會現場正準備拍攝煙花，當年台灣政府說要環保，煙花的數量不多，一群人這邊廂還在準備腳架擺陣，那邊廂煙火便轉眼即逝。只有一名視障人士匆匆按下快門，成為唯一留住了璀璨光影的人，「那位朋友嗅到硫黃味道和隱約看到光影，便朝那個方向拍照了。」還有另一次，一群人走在山上拍風景，一位視障朋友突然說要拍花，便往旁邊走去，「我們看不到，便跟他說沒有，後來真的發現有花，原來他聞到有花香味。」



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Where It All Started: Sri Lanka

The idea of “Sightfeeling” started with a volunteer trip in 2017. In 2016, the Olympics were held in Brazil, and when João Maia da Silva, a visually impaired photographer, stunned the world with his photo coverage of the Games. Fishing was among the astonished. “It blew my mind that someone visually impaired can take amazing pictures too.” She wondered if it was possible to include “non-visual” photography in the upcoming volunteer trip. Ideas were swiftly put into action. Together with five young photography enthusiasts, they met a group of visually impaired photographers during the preparation for the volunteer trip, and bought a couple of digital cameras through crowdfunding, and travelled to Sri Lanka to teach local visually impaired people how to take photos.

Their endeavours did not stop when they returned to Hong Kong. Their exhibition of the works of visually impaired Sri Lankans was well received. Afterwards, they kick-started “Sightfeeling” to promote photography for the visually impaired. You may be wondering how visually impaired people can take pictures. Fishing explains that every time they shoot, they work one-on-one with a sighted collaborator who describes

the surroundings to the photographer. The photographer then captures the scene with their own interpretation and senses. “Let’s say we are at the Qingjing Farm. We would first describe a big, uneven lawn with a sheep on it and a mountain range at the back. Then, we would tell them about the level, the brightness, and where the target is to give them a rough idea of the scene before asking them what they want to shoot.”

Hearing, Touch and Smell are more Sensitive than Sight

The visually impaired can shoot with their senses of hearing, touch and smell. A world without sight is sometimes a source of surprise. “Sightfeeling” once organised a trip to Taiwan to shoot fireworks at a New Year’s Eve Party. Not many fireworks were set off as the Taiwan government was promoting environmental protection. The display was over before they even finished setting up their tripods. The only one who managed a shot was visually impaired, who snapped a shot after sensing the light and shadow and smelling the sulfur from the fireworks. Another time, when they were hiking and taking pictures of the landscape, a visually impaired friend walked aside, saying he wanted to take a picture of the flowers. “We told him there aren’t any flowers because we didn’t see any. It turned out there were flowers. He knew because he could smell them.”



照片打開一扇容讓互相理解的窗

健視的人對視障人士也許心存很多疑問，或者對殘疾人士仍停留在既定印象，「視障人士有能力結婚嗎？」、「他們可以去旅行嗎？」Fishing不時被問到這些問題，她認為，解鈴還須繫鈴人，「視障朋友好多時都被『代言』，由身邊有家人或社工幫他去表達想法，公眾人士多數無法親自接觸視障人士的第一身感受。」透過照片，觀看者能立刻進入視障人士的日常，「那張相片好直接，他拍的畫面就代表他認知的世界，是一個好好能讓他們表達自己的機會。」

Fishing認識一位視障攝影師，有天他回到家，見到一束光落在太太身上，便按下快門，拍出來的照片很滿意，開心得那天仿佛中了大獎，後來這張照片在相展中展出，為健視與視障人士之間，打開了一扇互相了解的門，「好多人對視障人士的想像，可能還是停留在『好慘、要依賴別人過活』上，但視障人士其實也有正常的生活、也要返工放工，會有對生活的期待。」

面對視力每天遞減 把相機當成眼睛

「盲蹤跡」不時舉辦導賞，讓視障人士攝影之餘，也讓健視人士蒙上眼睛體驗「盲攝」。他們也曾出售視障人士作品的名信片，大獲好評。以為一切運作上了軌道，原來他們背後也曾飽受批評，「好多人笑我們蠢，又質疑我們是不是真的可以賺到錢。」但Fishing與朋友仍憑一個信念堅持至今，「如果件事有意義，我們就會堅持。」

「盲蹤跡」六位成員從事不同工作，當中有老師、空姐、記者及設計師。多年前九龍城衙前圍村的清拆，是「盲蹤跡」一群人攝影的起點，「我們好想去紀錄一些好快會消失的事，好想留住美好的事。」這點也與視障人士拍照的原因雷同——視障者永遠不知道哪一天自己將永遠失去視力，視力甚至可能每天遞減，他們把相機當成眼睛，盡量留住眼前尚有的每一刻，Fishing說：「他們今日拍得到，可能明天已未必影得到，但他們都好願意在生活上有不同的嘗試，仍好好地去生活，對於我來說，是一個好大的動力將盲蹤跡繼續下去。」

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A Window of Understanding Opened by Photography

Sighted people may have a lot of questions about the visually impaired. They may still be stuck with stereotypes. Fishing gets asked a lot of questions, like “Can the visually impaired get married?”, or “Can they go on a trip?” She thinks only the visually impaired can change this. “Most of the time, people with visual impairment are ‘represented’ by family members or social workers who express their feelings for them. The public usually do not get to communicate with them directly.” Through photographs, spectators may enter the everyday life of the visually impaired right away. “Photographs are very direct. The scene they shoot shows the world they perceive. It is an ideal chance for them to express themselves.”

A visually impaired photographer, an acquaintance of Fishing, once pressed the shutter button when he saw a ray of light falling on his wife when he got home one day. He was so happy with the picture that it was as if he had won the lottery. That picture was displayed in a photo exhibition and opened a door of understanding between the normal sighted and the visually impaired. “Perhaps a lot of people pity the visually impaired and imagine that they always have to depend on others; in fact, they too can live ordinary and hopeful lives, commuting to and from work like everyone else.”

Treating the Camera as Eyes as Vision Worsens

“Sightfeeling” organises guided tours from time to time for visually impaired people to take photos and for sighted people to experience “blind photography” blindfolded. They also sell postcards made from the works of visually impaired photographers, which are well received. While everything looks fine now, they have faced rounds of criticism. “Many people call us fools. They doubt if we can make money.” Despite all these, Fishing and her friends hang on for a belief: “If our work is meaningful, we will keep going.”

The six members of “Sightfeeling” have jobs in different fields, including teacher, flight attendant, journalist and designer. They picked up photography when Nga Tsin Wai Village in Kowloon City was being demolished years ago. “We wanted to record what would soon vanish to preserve beautiful moments and things.” This echoes why some visually impaired people pick up photography: they never know when they will lose their sight completely, especially for those whose sight deteriorates day by day. They treat the camera as their eyes to preserve everything before their eyes. “Even if they can shoot today, it doesn’t mean they will be able to shoot tomorrow,” Fishing said. “But they are still willing to try different things and live their lives to the fullest. This is what motivates me to keep ‘Sightfeeling’ going.”