

**「撻香樓」用香料凝聚少數族裔：
他們不只是被照顧的一群**

Lin Heung House Unifies Ethnic Minorities Using Scent: They Are Not Just People to be Taken Care of

Lin Heung House - Connecting the Community with Scent - Max Cheng & Johnny Lo

撰文 阿緒



走在大角咀街道上，不難發現這間看似是廚藝教室的工作室——櫥窗邊擺放著一罐罐香料，以及中央的木頭工作椅，鄭志堅（Max）早在裡頭，正在盯著電腦埋首製作「撻香樓」的宣傳文案。

「撻香樓」為Max跟朋友盧劍雄（Johnny）於2018年成立的社企，期望培訓少數族裔少女和婦女學習製香，繼而擔任工作坊導師及助理，讓她們賺取額外收入，發揮所長。Max認為，社會仍視少數族裔為弱勢、單純的「被照顧者」，但他希望他們在「撻香樓」能擁有不一樣的待遇。

With cans of incense ingredients by the window and a wooden office chair in the centre, this cookery classroom-looking studio on the street of Tai Kok Tsui was not hard to find. Max Cheng was already there, staring at his computer, creating advertisements for "Lin Heung House".

"Lin Heung House" is a social enterprise founded by Max and his friend Johnny Lo in 2018. It aims to train ethnic minority girls and women to make incense, who can then work as workshop tutor and assistant for extra income and an opportunity to use their talents. Max thinks that ethnic minorities are still perceived as the weak by society and only people to be taken care of. He hopes they can be treated differently at "Lin Heung House".



Max大學修讀視覺藝術，畢業作品以「香」為主題，當時的畢業作品指導老師提議他日後從這個範疇繼續發展，他於2015年就成立了製作手工香的工作室，生意逐漸上軌道的時候，Max就思考如何利用自身的專長貢獻社會——「撻香樓」就應運而生。

遠赴印度取經

本業以售賣香味產品及策劃藝術活動為主，Max的團隊亦會開設工作坊，社企「撻香樓」的工作看似是本業的延展。

提到香料、香枝，自然讓人想到泰國、印度等盛產香料的東南亞國家，當時Max到印度學習沖香料茶，「我們不是突然對南亞的東西有興趣，由於我們的本業是製香，經過資料搜集後，發現香的來源是印度，我們就去做實地考察，再回來分享。」Max解釋。

Max專誠遠赴印度，在當地學習沖製香料茶、造香，回來後就計劃開設「Train The Trainer Programme」，聯絡關注少數族裔的本地社福機構，教授他們沖茶及製香，再到不同機構售賣或於工作坊擔任助手，讓少數族裔能學習多一門技能，賺取外快之餘，還能發揮所長。「簡單一點來說，我們就是帶著那架木頭車子，到展覽場地沖茶，時間許可的話就會教做香。」

木頭車設計精美，上方懸掛著沖茶的各種用品，側面的木板可拉起作小餐桌，讓僱客可聚在一起飲茶。Johnny提到，當他們與少數族裔婦女到機構設攤檔，不只是讓她們發揮所長，更能讓香港人認識他們的文化。「例如巴基斯坦的茶，要落五匙糖才是他們日常所飲的味道，但你知道香港人不習慣飲太甜，我就會跟來的人說，這是巴基斯坦人慣常的味道，有些香港人曾去過當地，飲我們沖的茶會驚嘆說『這跟我去旅行試到的一樣！』」Johnny說。

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Max studied Visual Arts at university. The theme of his graduation work was “aroma”, an area his final year project supervisor suggested that he further work on. In 2015, he founded a handmade incense studio. After the business got on track, he pondered how he could contribute to society with his profession. This was how “Lin Heung House” came about.

Journey to India

The core business of Max’s team is selling incense products and planning artistic activities, but they also organise workshops. The work of “Lin Heung House” seems to be an extension of their core business.

Spices and incense sticks tend to remind one of Southeast Asian countries like Thailand and India. Max travelled to India to learn how to make spiced tea. “It is not that we got interested in South Asian stuff all of a sudden,” Max explained. “As our core business is scent-making, we did some research and found that incense originated from India. That’s why we went on a field trip and shared what we had learnt when we got back.”

Max went all the way to India to learn how to make spiced tea and incense before coming back to start the “Train-the-Trainer Programme”. He lined

up local NGOs that support ethnic minorities, and taught them how to make tea and incense, so that they could sell their products at different organisations and serve as assistants at workshops. This way, ethnic minorities could acquire a new skill, earn some extra money, and make use of their talent. “To put it simply, we bring a wooden cart to exhibition venues to make tea. If time allows, we teach people how to make incense.”

The beautifully designed wooden cart has tools for making tea hanging on the top and a wooden board at the side that can be pulled up to serve as a small table for drinking tea. Johnny noted that setting up stalls with ethnic minority women at various organisations is not only an opportunity for them to apply their knowledge, but also a chance for Hongkongers to learn about their culture. “For example, you have to add five spoons of sugar in a cup of tea to reproduce the taste of typical Pakistan tea. But as you know, Hongkongers are not used to drinks that are too sweet, so I’d tell visitors that this is what Pakistanis are used to. Sometimes Hongkongers who have been to Pakistan would exclaim: ‘This taste just like what I had on my trip!’” said Johnny.

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縱觀關注本地少數族裔的團體，他們的理念及做法跟「搥香樓」十分相似——教授技能、提高少數族裔的自信，那麼「搥香樓」跟這些團體的區別在哪呢？「這裡不是提供他們的生活必需品的地方，但他們在這裡能夠一齊玩，一齊去不同地方識人，是讓他們休閒識朋友的地方。」

Max多次強調，少數族裔在「搥香樓」的角色並非服務的「受惠者」或「被照顧者」，他們是Max團隊的合作伙伴，這種關係於Max眼中尤其重要，「我們與少數族裔朋友的相處跟一般人無異，不會刻意問他們生活上遇到的困難、需要甚麼援助，他們來到就是學習一種興趣而已。」縱然如此，Max仍樂見參加「搥香樓」活動的少數族裔朋友有所改變，「看見他們自信心大了，能夠順暢地講解，我們都開心的。」Max說。



一起籌劃未來發展

「搥香樓」與少數族裔婦女建立了互信的關係——她們除了到展覽場地沖茶，還會為接下來的工作坊撰寫計劃書，讓她們從計劃階段已參與。「這樣可以讓她們更有ownership，而且她們之後出來工作時都要學懂，倒不如在這裡學吧。」Johnny說。

2019年，「搥香樓」獲得Good Seed種子基金支持開展計劃，Johnny認為這對於擴闊機構規模起莫大作用，「獲得Good Seed支持，除了增加了媒體報導，而且我們跟NGO洽談時，提升了公信力，而且這筆起動基金能讓我們添置更多材料及儀器。」

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“Taking Care” of Ethnic Minorities is not the Aim

A glance at local organisations would suggest that they have similar vision and practices as “Lin Heung House”: teaching ethnic minorities skills and raising their confidence. So, what sets “Lin Heung House” apart? “This is not a place that provides for their everyday needs. Here, they can spend time together and get to know more people from different communities. This is a place for them to relax and make friends.”

Max stressed repeatedly that ethnic minorities are not “beneficiaries” or the ones that are “taken care of” at “Lin Heung House”. They are partners of Max’s team. This relationship is of utmost importance in the eyes of Max. Max pointed out, “We treat ethnic minorities like we treat everyone else. We don’t deliberately ask them what difficulties they are facing or what help they need. They are here just to pick up a hobby.” Despite so, he is still happy to witness the changes that ethnic minorities who participate in their activities go through. He admitted, “After all, we are glad to see them explain things fluently with greater confidence.”

Planning Future Developments Together

“Lin Heung House” has built mutual trust with ethnic minority women: they do not only make tea at exhibition venues, but also write proposals for subsequent workshops, playing a part from as early as the planning phase. “This way, they have more ownership. If they will have to learn this when they go to work anyway, why not give them a chance to learn it here?” said Johnny.

In 2019, “Lin Heung House” obtained seed funding from Good Seed to further develop their cause. Johnny thinks that this has helped them a lot in expanding their organisation:

“The support of Good Seed gives us more media coverage and more credibility when dealing with NGOs. The seed money allows us to acquire more ingredients and equipment too.”