

Wild Plants: A Creation Life

Artist Statement

Taiwan is where we live. The Central Mountain Range runs from the north of the island to the south. Taiwan's tropical, sub-tropical, and temperate climates provide clear differentiation between the different seasons. The country is home to abundant plant life, including mangrove plants in the littoral zone, mixed conifer and broad-leaf evergreen trees in middle low altitudes, and those growing in areas up to 2,500 meters above sea level such as conifers, arrow bamboos and tundra. These wild plants as medicines or food contribute to us much more than ornamental plants, even more important in soil and water conservation to maintain ecological balance.

People accustomed to modern urban life have few chances to widely and deeply observe wild plants from the mountains to the sea. Close to us, but we refrain from noticing or recognizing those wild plants such as Querong ("sparrow fig") hanging to school walls, Asiatic plantain animating along the roadways, Bidens pilosa (known as Cobbler's Pegs or Spanish Needle) cling playfully to the pants. Not delicate like purebred or rare plants, these green neighbors have superior adaptation to grow vigorously in the parks, ditches, wastelands without watering and fertilization. You will find each plant unique and born beautiful if you are willing to bend over to say hello to them. The plant growth process of sprouting, growing, blooming, fruiting is full of surprises; furthermore, birds' food picking and pollination enrich lives.

After observing plants ecology in the suburban mountains or taking photography and sketching common wild plants in the neighborhood, I keep the most beautiful moment of wild plants in my blue and white ceramics underglaze red.

