

NAME	Sheng-Kai Chou	GENDER	Male
Occupation	Student (MA Fine Art)		
NAME OF SCHOOL	University of East London, London, UK		

Attachment 1: recommendation (Karen Raney, Senior Lecturer of MA Fine Art)

Attachment 2: recommendation (Michele Farmer, Disability Adviser)

Attachment 3: Basic Certificate in British Sign Language

Attachment 4: Bachelor of Fine Art in Chinese Culture University

Language Skills

Literacy Areas: Chinese (Lipread and speak fluently), English (written)
 Sign Languages: Taiwanese (fluent), British Sign Language (conversational), French (basic)

Education

2002 – 2004 MA in Fine Art at University of East London, London, UK
 2000 – 2002 MA in Fine Art at Canterbury Christ Church University College, Kent, UK
 1997 – 2000 City Lit, London, courses in English and British Sign Language
 1996 – 1997 Voluntary work: teaching deaf Senior School students art to help them for their exams; English course
 1992 – 1996 BA in Fine Art at Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan
 1989 – 1992 National Feng Yuan High Senior School, Taiwan, Fine Art Experimentation Class

Exhibitions

February 2004 THE INTERNATIONAL MINIART EXHIBITION 4 – 22 February 2004
 Gomboc Gallery, Western Australia (non-commercial)
 August 2003 MINIART EXCHANGE 5 to 31 August 2003 Iberé Camargo Gallery, Porto Alegre, Brazil (non-commercial)
 April 2003 METROSPECTIVE Old Aldwych Station, Strand and Surrey Street, London (non-commercial)
 April 2003 RECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES The Jersey Galleries, Osterley Park House, Jersey Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, (non-commercial)
 September 2001 MA SHOW Canterbury Christ Church University College, Kent
 June 1996 BA SHOW Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan

Statement

In 1974 when I was 1 year old I lost my hearing in a fever. This meant I became isolate from the world I knew. I went through mainstream schooling after my parents had put their own interests behind mine and enabled me to learn to speak and lip read Mandarin. However, through the use of my hands, eyesight and with the unrelenting support of my parents I discovered my natural talent for fine art. This

discover and my joy in the new form of expression gave me a great sense of achievement and confidence in myself. In 1992 I received one of the ten Youth With The Highest Achievement in the Republic of China Awards in recognition of my efforts.

Painting and the fine arts have become my second life and I have worked hard to develop my artistic talent to a level where I believe I would make a useful and creative contribution to the deaf community.

I graduated from Western Painting Division of the Art Department in the Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan in June 1996. Before I entered University I had already had six years training in basic painting and was familiar with the major artist and art theory from the Renaissance era to late-period Impressionism. This background contributed a great deal to my university art education especially in sketching, still lives and oil painting.

After I came to the UK, I studied to improve my English. English is a very difficult language for deaf people as it is idiomatic and best learned through oral practice. I also learned British Sign Language and then studied for an MA at Canterbury Christ Church University College.

I am now three quarters through my MA at University of East London, where I am taught by world known artist including Turner Prize winners. This is more challenging and I have developed my own style but I still have to work hard on it. I have come from more impressionist type painting to abstract expressionist landscape, fusing traditional Chinese painting with twentieth and twenty-first century Western art. I find that I can now communicate to my course mates and my tutors how different I see the world with the eyes of a deaf man and how this affects my art.

My parents have supported me financially as best they can but with two sisters who have both been through university education, money is tight, in London, one of the most expensive cities of the world. As I find it more difficult and time consuming to work through my course, I do not have time to work at the same time and have to economise on the money I have.

I would like to continue to work on my own style of work. I would also like to improve my British Sign Language Skills by attending a Level 2 Course and a specialist course for art tour guides. I want to help deaf people have access to art in the same way that hearing people now have. At the same time I want to show to hearing people how deaf people experience the world and express it through art and that the deaf world can contribute as much to the world of Art as hearing artists

I am also contemplating to continue my studies at the University of East London at PhD level next year, depending on being successful at MA. For me to continue in my studies, and to make sure that I can fulfil my destiny as a propagator of my message to the hearing and deaf world, I need scholarship funds to fund my studies.

In the future I wish to be able to return to Taiwan, and help the deaf community in education there, such as in the museums and galleries, including the understanding of Western Art in order to help the understanding between Chinese and Western Culture. As a deaf artist, I wish to be able to show the hearing world that we can convey our meanings as effectively as they do; that 'deafness' need not be a barrier to full communication. It is my wish to be the first leader of a deaf tour in a gallery.