

A RARE GEM

Despite facing numerous health problems, jeweller Poesy Liang tells **Charlotte Robert** that she prefers to look at the beauty of life through the exquisiteness of her precious gemstones.

What do you do when finality stares you in the face? Where do you go when you hit rock bottom? You either succumb to the circumstances and let it get the better of you, or you fight your way back to life.

It takes tremendous amount of strength to rise again but, literally, rising up is what jeweller Poesy Liang did when paralysis hit her at the age of 17 and was told she would never walk again. And if that was not enough, paralysis struck her again when she was 28 (Liang is now 32 and walking).

It was during those countless moments of despair that Liang realised life was not about material attachments. "When death stares you in the face, you become truly appreciative of life and look for the real purpose of it and I wanted to immerse my limited time with things that mattered," recalls Liang.

Faced with the biggest hurdle in her life, the artistic beauty decided to hone her creativity and channel all her inspiration towards the arts that she enjoyed, which was when circumstances led her to the jewellery business.

"One day, while I was out shopping, I was standing outside a gemstone shop waiting for my car. There did not seem to be anything particularly special about this shop but inside, calling out to me, was an intriguing piece of stone – a green beryl. I was instantly fascinated by the stone and saw how it could be enhanced."

At this point, Liang was already into jewellery as a hobby, but the brilliance of the green beryl burned in her mind and expanded her appreciation for stones. She decided then and there she would learn everything she could, right down to the minerals.

"My friends encouraged me to hone my jewellery-making skills after viewing some of my designs. I am lucky that I had highly knowledgeable people to learn from as

well. Their belief in me meant a lot and made me turn a passionate hobby into a business. It made sense since I was able to combine my practical and creative skills together, and push myself to greater heights."

Liang's designs are architecturally influenced – she wants her designs to not only be admired when worn, but also to be aesthetically-pleasing in structure. Using only the finest metals and the rarest colours of gems, stones are definitely something she relishes not only wearing but also collecting. "I am all for transparency, beauty and mileage, but I don't like sameness. Things have to withstand the test of time. Architects leave their legacy behind in their buildings and way of life; creating my jewellery collection is also a form of artistic expression not very far different from that of an architect," she stresses, adding that her creations are to house beautiful stones that evoke her passion.

Often, the creations of this multi-disciplined artist and interior designer are inspired by the people she meets and the stories they share with her. They encourage Liang to come up with even more artistic creations for her collection. "I find breath-taking inspiration in great personalities. Sometimes, a stone might remind me of a certain person I admire. There is always a story behind each of my creations."

Despite the challenging years of battling with health problems, Liang chooses to see her difficulties as a blessing in life. If not for that, she believes she would not have developed herself and be touched by the people who have walked through her life. This spirited lady likens each of them to a stone. "Rare people are like rare stones. They're constantly adding sparkle to other people's life. We are a blessed lot but sometimes we forget the need to shine for others. For that, we should always want to improve, not just for ourselves but for others, too. Y'know, kind of polish up to obtain clarity and be true to our natural colours." Wise words indeed from one so young. ▲

personality

"PEOPLE ARE LIKE RARE STONES...CONSTANTLY ADDING SPARKLE TO EACH OTHER'S LIVES."



Styling: **TAHIR ALHAMZAH**
Photo: **LAW SOO PHYE**
Hair & Makeup: **MANGO**
Dress: **EMILIO PUCCI**

THE PEAK

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Malaysia



A BEAUTIFUL MIND

DATO' DR. MICHAEL YEOH
Chief Executive Officer / Director
Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI)



ON THE COVER

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