

# Rigidity and Resilience

## by Ernest Chang for KELY Support Group

The **Rigidity and Resilience** collection for KELY comprises 12 unique works of art — three large-format pieces (1200 x 800mm), four medium-format pieces (A2 – 420 x 594 mm) and five small-format pieces (A3 - 297 x 420 mm). Working with the KELY team, Chang collected 12 inspirational hand-written texts by various anonymous young writers, covering different themes such as living in Hong Kong, being creative and different coping mechanisms. The samples of penmanship were then enlarged and transferred onto canvases to form the foundation and background of each work. Covering about half of each canvas, the hand-written texts represent individual thought and creativity. Meanwhile Hong Kong Cantonese slang phrases and *chengyu* (ancient Chinese idiomatic expressions) were painted directly on top of the texts. These geometrical compositions of straight lines and perfect curves express structure and society, creating unique “nets” which impose on the individuality of the texts.

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The Stallery Director Ernest Chang is a photographer with a unique perspective that is deeply intertwined with his artistic and personal identity. His red-green colour-blindness infuses his portraits with heightened colour contrasts and contours that make his sitters appear at once genuine and larger than life.

Ernest started out as a photographer and graphic designer before founding the Stallery. He believes art must be experienced, so he left art school to educate himself about the world visually and viscerally with his eyes, body and mind. This sensory learning process sparked his interest in investigating the impact of technology on contemporary society as technology becomes ever more personal and interpersonal. His belief in science and technology is manifest in his practice through his use of cutting-edge visual media and futuristic compositional elements.

***“I wanted to work with KELY because, as a struggling drug addict myself years ago before I started building my art studio, I understand from a personal perspective the importance of professional support when it comes to young people who are having issues in their social or personal lives. Organisations like KELY save lives and inspire us to push through, no matter the adversity thrown at us.”***

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## Level Up, 2018

1200 x 1800 mm

Acrylic & Giclée Print on Canvas

Gallery-Wrapped on 38 mm Thick Wooden Frame

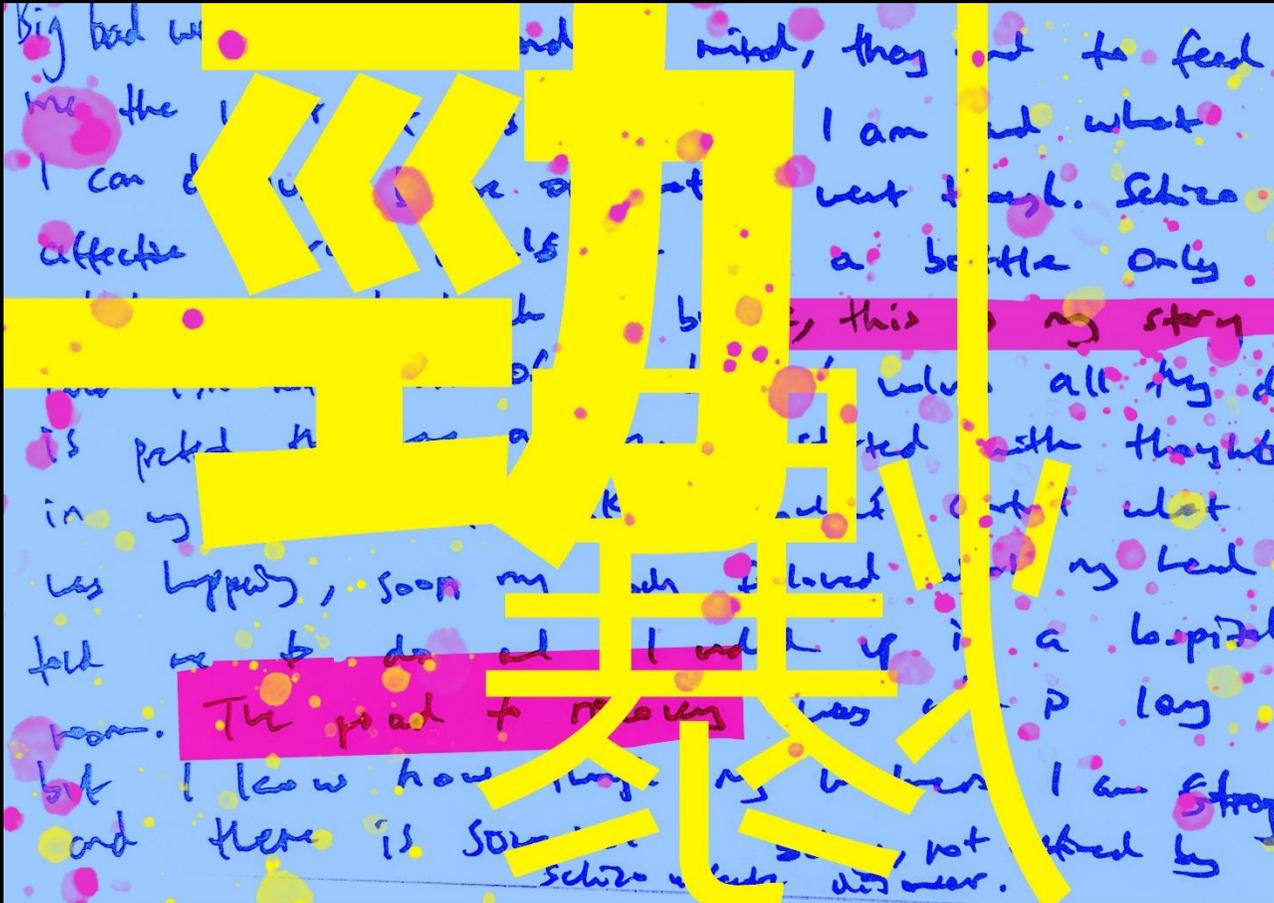
Unique, 1/1 Signed

*“The title ‘Level Up’ was inspired by the Chinese characters that cover the artwork — which literally translates to ‘increase in level’, in terms of gaming. This particular slang comes from popular Japanese role-playing games that require players to ‘level-up’ in order to defeat its opponents. Throughout the past decade, local people have used this Chinese phrase to describe people or things that are advancing in some aspect of life — for example, in one’s career. The letter beneath talks about the challenges a teenager, who happens to be an immigrant of Hong Kong, has to face. The author writes about the many complicated problems and the hard times that were thrown at his/her adolescent mind back in his/her home country — and how he/she and his/her family stuck together to overcome those issues. By staying with loved ones and solving the problems together, they managed to seek a new adventure and continue to ‘level-up’ in life.”*

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# Ging Bao, 2018



297 x 420 mm

Acrylic & Giclée Print on Canvas

Gallery-Wrapped on 38 mm Thick Wooden Frame

Unique, 1/1 Signed

*“This piece is titled “Ging Bao” because of the way the characters are pronounced in Cantonese. ‘Ging-bao’ is a local colloquial phrase that literally translates to ‘explosively strong or powerful’ — and it is used by nearly everyone in Hong Kong to describe someone or something that is ‘really amazing’. The characters are superimposed on a letter written by someone who struggles with schizoaffective disorder. He/She talks about the state of mind of someone who suffers from mental illness — but manages to persevere through life despite the hardship because he/she believes one can feel a sense of strength ‘even though the road to recovery is hard and long’.”*

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