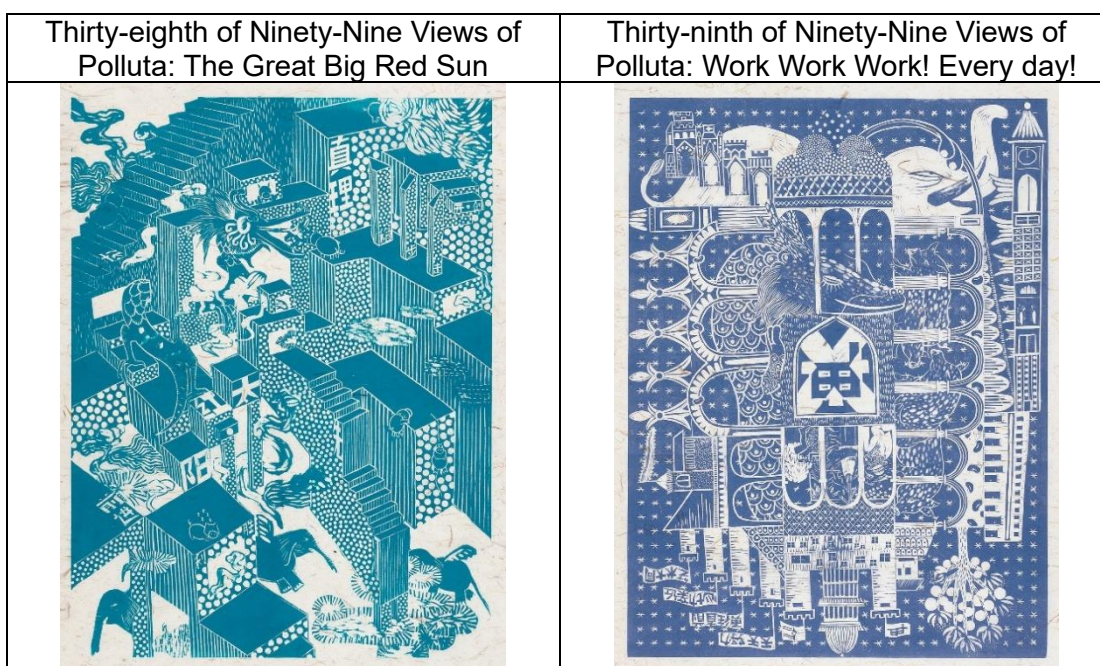


Michelle Fung (Hong Kong, China)

2021

Woodcut print (oil-based ink on cloud dragon rice paper)

► **Artwork:**



► **Artist Statement:**

A dream on an afternoon in 2015 turned into a lifelong project to spin a fantastical futuristic world out of pigments, words and images. 2084 revolves around building a grand ecotopian/dystopian world in the corresponding year. My works are heavily informed by dystopian literature, and I find myself in regular tête-à-tête with Swift, Orwell and Wilde. Other diverse influences include illustration, Chinese literati and gongbi painting, Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints, manga/anime, fairy tales, Chinese modern history, environmental studies and Inuit mythology.

► **Artwork Appreciation:**

The two woodcut prints belong to Fung's ongoing body of 99 woodcuts "Polluta Propaganda Woodcuts". Both works portray the imaginary community of 'Polluta', a sustainable utopia built from the conversion of air pollutants into resources. Artists live and create happily within this self-sufficient ecosystem, armed with positive attitude and a bright vision of the future.

In "The Great Big Red Sun," the animals are all magical features of this artist colony. Dragons are depicted creating fertiliser for the rooftop farm, while pigs consume food waste, transforming into Chinese ham during the Lunar New Year. This creates a self-sustaining ecosystem which is environmentally-friendly and sustainable. The clouds in

the artwork imply that it is an aerial community, further illustrated by a flying elephant transporting arts materials.

In “Work Work Work! Every day!”, the symbol on the flag and in the middle of the artwork is Polluta’s logo. It resembles a pictorial window, looking like a “P” in English and the Chinese character “田”. You can also see a few artists working away.

All the architectural details in both works refer to buildings where the artists live and work while the positive words and phrases reflect the positivism within this artist colony.

► **Techniques involved:**

The artworks were created first by carving the images on wood. Oil-based ink was then applied onto the woodblock (matrix) with a brayer (rubber roller.) The images were then imprinted onto handmade rice paper with a printing press.

The prints are hand-pulled with the entire edition printed at the same time to keep the paint colour consistent.

► **Artist Profile:**

Michelle Fung is a contemporary visual artist who works in multiple media, including printmaking, illustration, and performance art. Born and raised in Hong Kong, her artistic journey has taken her across the globe, highlighting her unique style and thematic focus on environmental and social issues.

Michelle Fung holds a Master of Visual Arts from Hong Kong Baptist University and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a double major in English Literature and Studio Art from the University of British Columbia, Canada.

Michelle Fung has exhibited her work extensively in solo and group exhibitions. Notable solo exhibitions include "Polluta, Floating Artist Colony in the Sky" at Pro Arts Gallery in Oakland, USA, in 2018 and "One Day in Polluta" at Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre in Hong Kong in 2023. Her group exhibitions have been featured globally in prestigious art fairs and festivals, including the 11th International Printmaking Biennial Douro 2022 in Portugal and the Ulsan International Woodcut Print Festival in Korea in 2023.

Fung has received numerous awards for her work, including the Film That Matters Award at the Animaze Film Festival in Montreal, Canada, in 2019 and the Sovereign Asian Art Prize Vogue Hong Kong Women’s Art Prize in 2024 . She has also taken part in artist residencies at esteemed institutions such as Art Omi in New York in 2016 and the Arctic Circle in Svalbard in 2022.

Michelle Fung's scholarly articles and illustrations have been published in various journals and magazines, highlighting her interdisciplinary approach to art and literature. She is also a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators in the USA.