

**CUHK Convocation Outstanding Services  
and Creativity Student Awards 2019/20**  
香港中文大學校友評議會傑出服務及創意學生獎 2019/20

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<b>Major</b> 主修	Environmental Science

I am very grateful to CUHK Convocation for offering this award on my work. With many others existing environmental education workshops and STEAM projects in the market, this affirmation gives me more confidence in designing unique topics and teaching materials in the field of environmental education. This award may also be persuasive to my future supervisors at workplace for allowing me to design educational materials with more flexibility and in a less “traditional” manner. In the future, I sincerely hope that I will have more chances to develop programmes which are playful, interactive, and being in-depth and continual at the same time.

I hope these activities, especially those outside of the classrooms, will bring actual changes to the thoughts and behaviors of participants. Only by establishing personal connections, appreciation and long-lasting memories with nature, together with the knowledge we learnt, one would truly be contemplative on his/her choices in daily life that impact the ecosystems.

In the past few years, I have been holding soil painting workshops. My interest in soil was developed when I started to do part time work and did a FYP in two soil chemistry laboratory, where I learnt the functions of soil in agriculture and ecosystems. I aware that there is a huge knowledge gap between the soil specialists, farmers and city dwellers. By observation, many children or even adults I know perceive soil as “just dirt”, unhygienic, easy to obtain, and is not related to sustainability at all. There should be more opportunities for them to connect with the land that they are dependent on. Meanwhile, my other hobby is painting and making eco-friendly art crafts, as I felt guilty about the wastes and pollutions I made during the process. Inspired by the Australian aboriginal cave paintings and the colorful soil in Lai Chi Wo where I participated in the rice paddy recultivation programme, I started to research and experiment on producing bio-degradable paint with soil pigment. In Lai Chi Wo, I started to view soil in a non-scientific or cultural perspective. Soil marks the trajectory of people, animals, plants and even rocks that existed in the area. It is the testimony of the history of a place, and a product of the interactions of all living organisms that have existed there. The unique characteristics of soil are reflected in their wild spectrum of harmonic colour and texture, making soil an ideal pigment for artwork.

In some workshops, participants saw soil was supporting the lives of plants and other organisms. They felt the texture and viscosity of soil when they made their own paint. They used sticks and figures as pens and the ground as canvas to exhibit their creativity. They saw the changes in colour of soil as the paint dry under sun. These processes encouraged the participants to appreciate the functions and natural beauty of soil, enhanced their sensitivity in seeing and touching the natural world. The soil paint would eventually be returned to nature by rain. This is one of the ways where we can enjoy nature, meanwhile leave no trace and take nothing away except memories. I also encouraged them so try experimenting on making eco-friendly paint with other materials by sharing how I came up with the ideas, as for myself, the real fun lies in “inventing” or discovering ways to solve existing problems.



A display of the raw materials I have been testing. The basic elements of the paint I made are pigment (soil), binder (tree sap) and some biodegradable dispersive agent.



A trip to Lai Chi Wo rice paddy and Fung Shui Wood with participants. Lai Chi Wo has several different natural habitats, where different soil color and texture can be found.