

OPEN YOUR HEART TO SEE, CLOSE YOUR EYES TO READ

BLIND SIDE BY



Wei-LingGallery

# Blind Side

## Ivan Lam

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'*Blind Side*' by Ivan Lam showcases a series of paintings that bear his unique signature style while imbuing a new essence and significance, as he often does with each new series. The exhibition's central theme revolves around the condition of blindness, offering an opportunity for the visually impaired to engage with and experience the artworks.

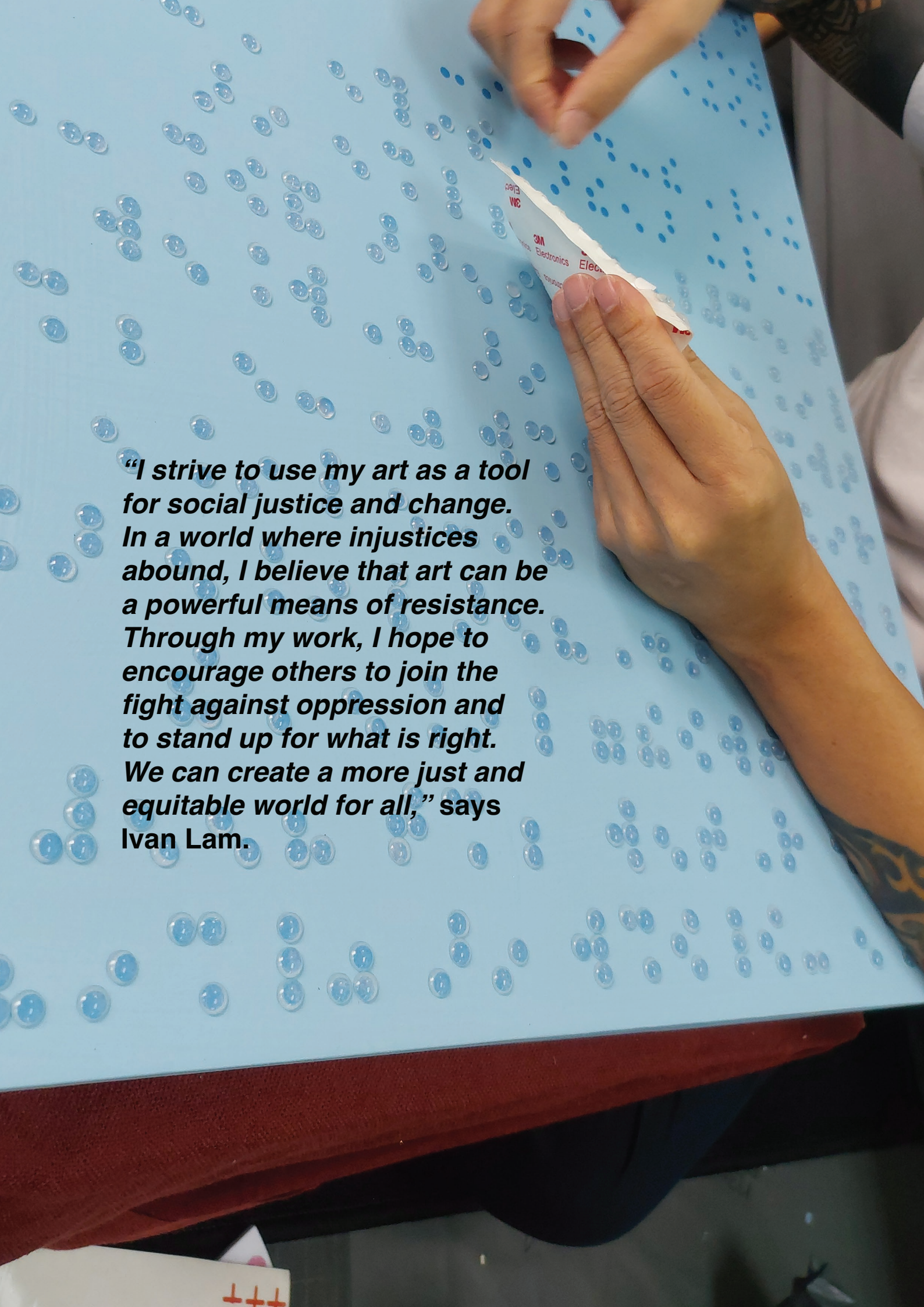
Lam has always been fascinated by the concept of blindness, delving deep into understanding the human perspective and the challenges they face in society. Engaging with the visually impaired community has provided him with insightful reflections on the ways of seeing, even for those who have the gift of sight. Inspired by his conversations with the Malaysian Association of the Blind (MAB), Ivan created a series of art that would connect with the visually impaired.

The first painting of this exceptional series is an ode to justice, featuring a surface that is partitioned into two sections. The upper and larger section is textured, colored white to represent purity, with a poignant braille inscription that reads "those that can see cannot read, those that can read cannot see." The lower section portrays a scene of a police car alongside an anonymous figure - possibly a politician - being escorted to prison. This profound work serves as a testament to the significance of standing up against oppression, even in the face of adversity. Here, the artist draws inspiration from his conversations with the visually impaired, who have taught him the value of optimism.

The remaining paintings showcased in the exhibition feature a spectrum of vibrant colors such as red, blue, yellow, green, and purple. Each painting is once again adorned with a braille inscription detailing the colour's relation to various objects, scents, and tastes, in order to perceive it. The format of these paintings has been thoughtfully considered, to make them easily accessible and user-friendly for the visually impaired audience – encouraging them to feel at ease while running their hands over the braille inscriptions. While these paintings are realised with the visually impaired audience in mind, they are equally captivating and enriching for sighted visitors, who are invited to appreciate them on a different level.

One of the unique aspects of the exhibition is the socially-engaging poster design competition for the blind. By employing a poster template that cleverly contrasts two types of dots, one for the sighted and the other for the visually impaired, the former may decipher the message in conventional alphabets that the dots form, while the latter may rely on tactile UV braille for reading. The visually impaired participants are to paste colored stickers onto the UV dots to create their design. Ivan intends to extend this project to reach out to more communities in other places. An ongoing project that shall continue to open up new possibilities of seeing, without necessarily reading.

At Wei-Ling Contemporary, Ivan Lam's solo exhibition '*Blind Side*' presents a novel and stimulating perspective on contemporary art that seeks to establish a rapport with the visually impaired community; a demographic that is frequently neglected in the art scene. The show endeavors to create an all-encompassing environment that accommodates everyone, irrespective of one's visual abilities – thus promoting inclusivity and accessibility in the art world.



***“I strive to use my art as a tool for social justice and change. In a world where injustices abound, I believe that art can be a powerful means of resistance. Through my work, I hope to encourage others to join the fight against oppression and to stand up for what is right. We can create a more just and equitable world for all,” says Ivan Lam.***

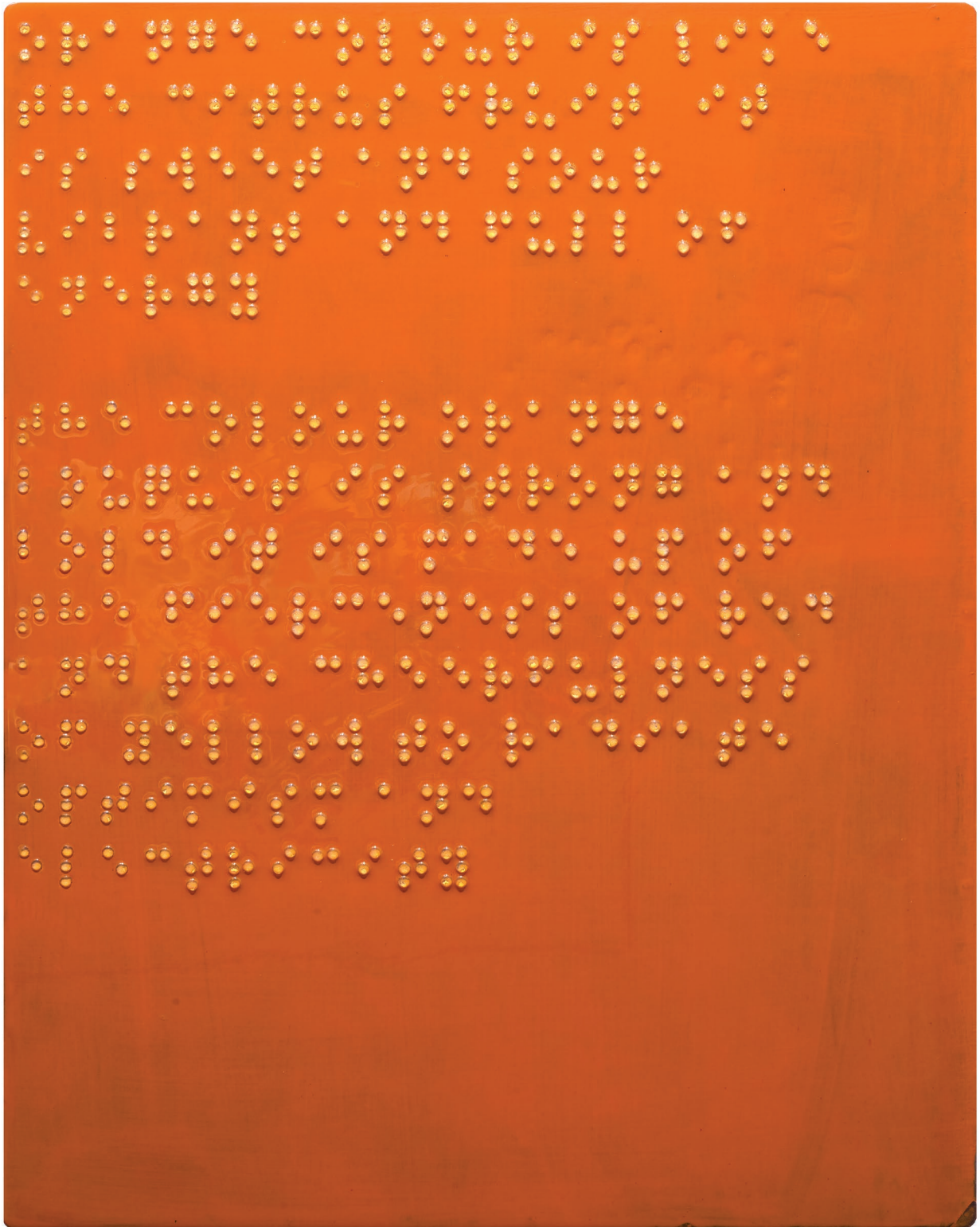


*Blindsight*

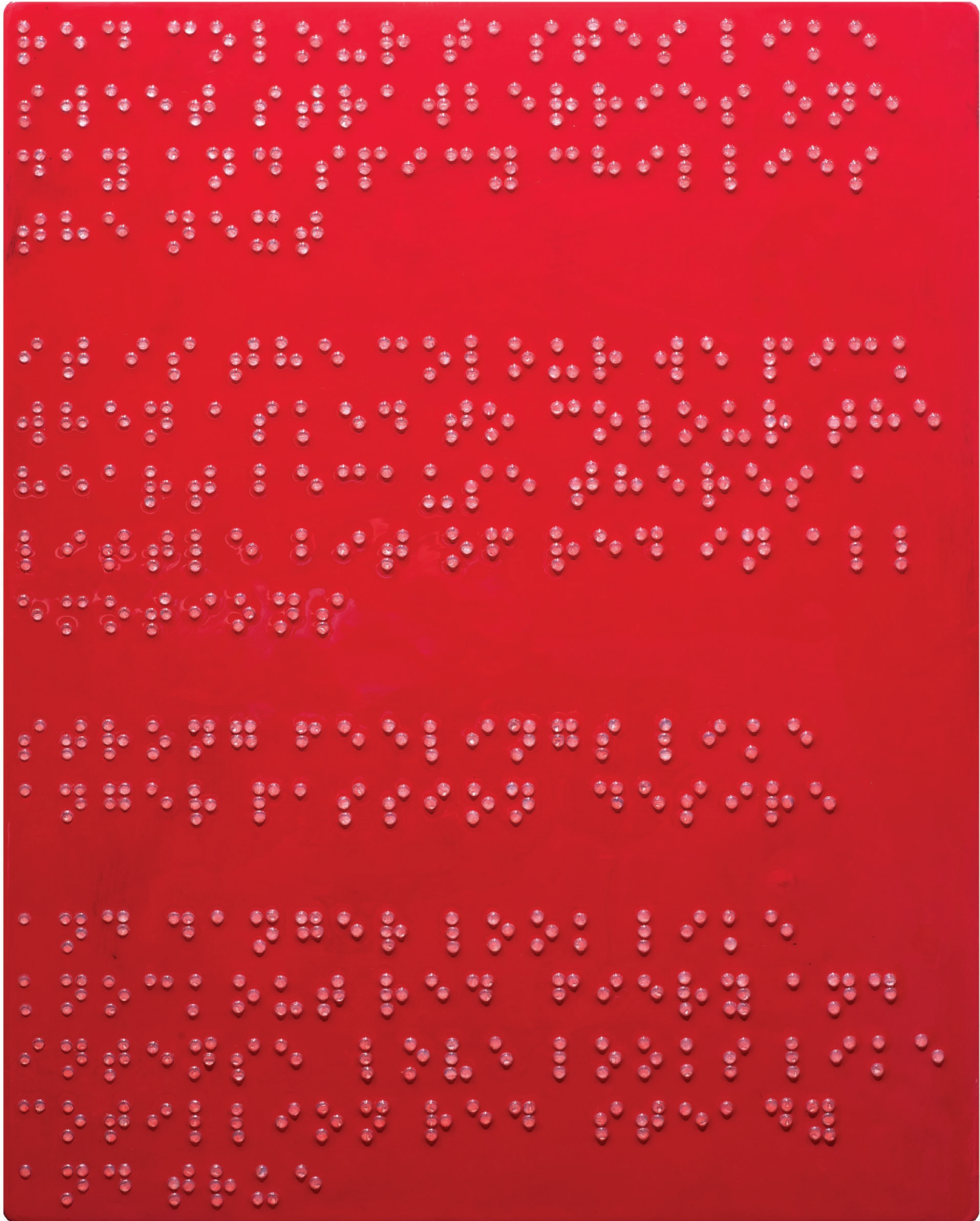
Pastel color pencil, oil pastel, dry pastel, synthetic acrylic paint, vinyl and charcoal pencil on canvas on board

210cm x 157.5cm

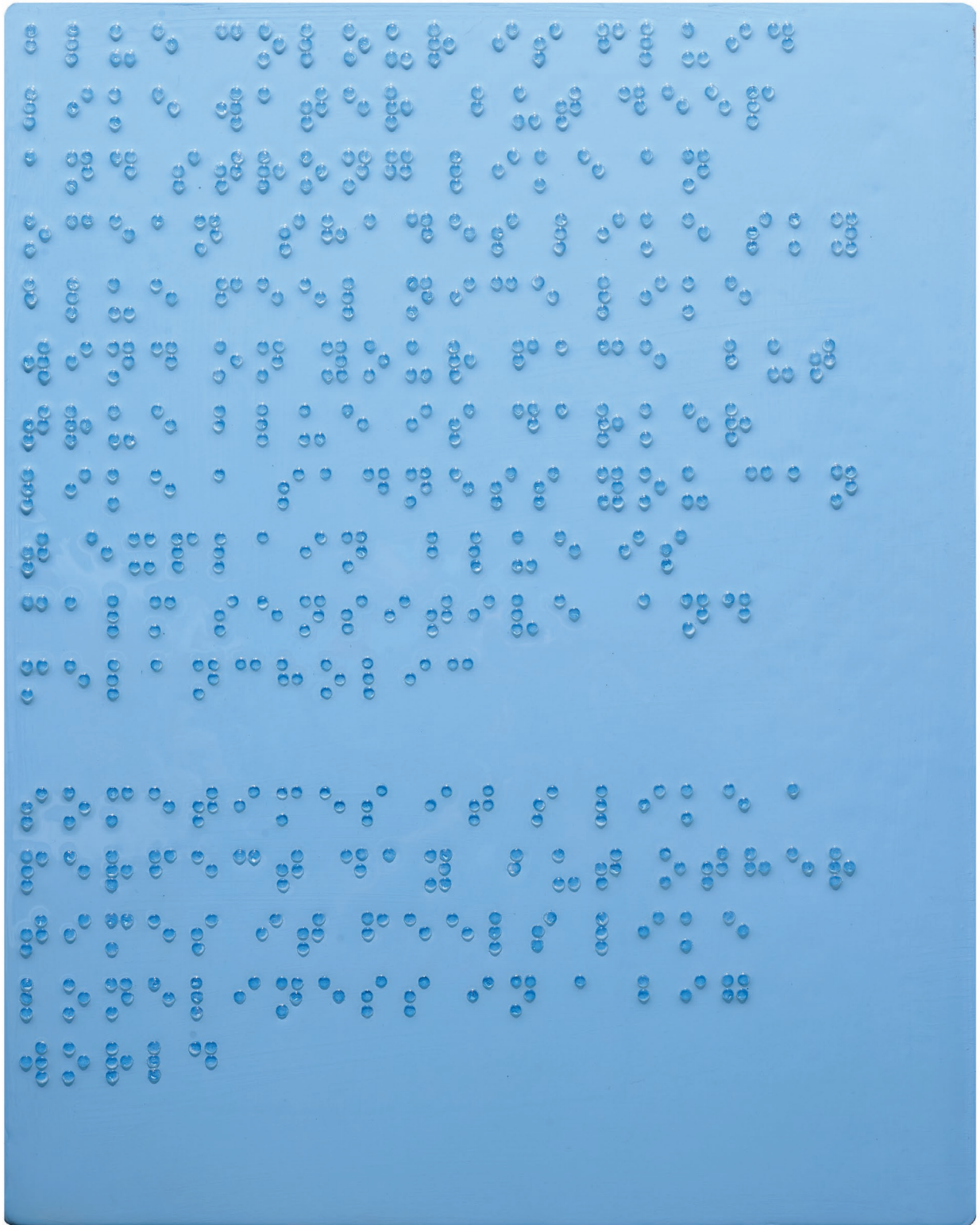
2022



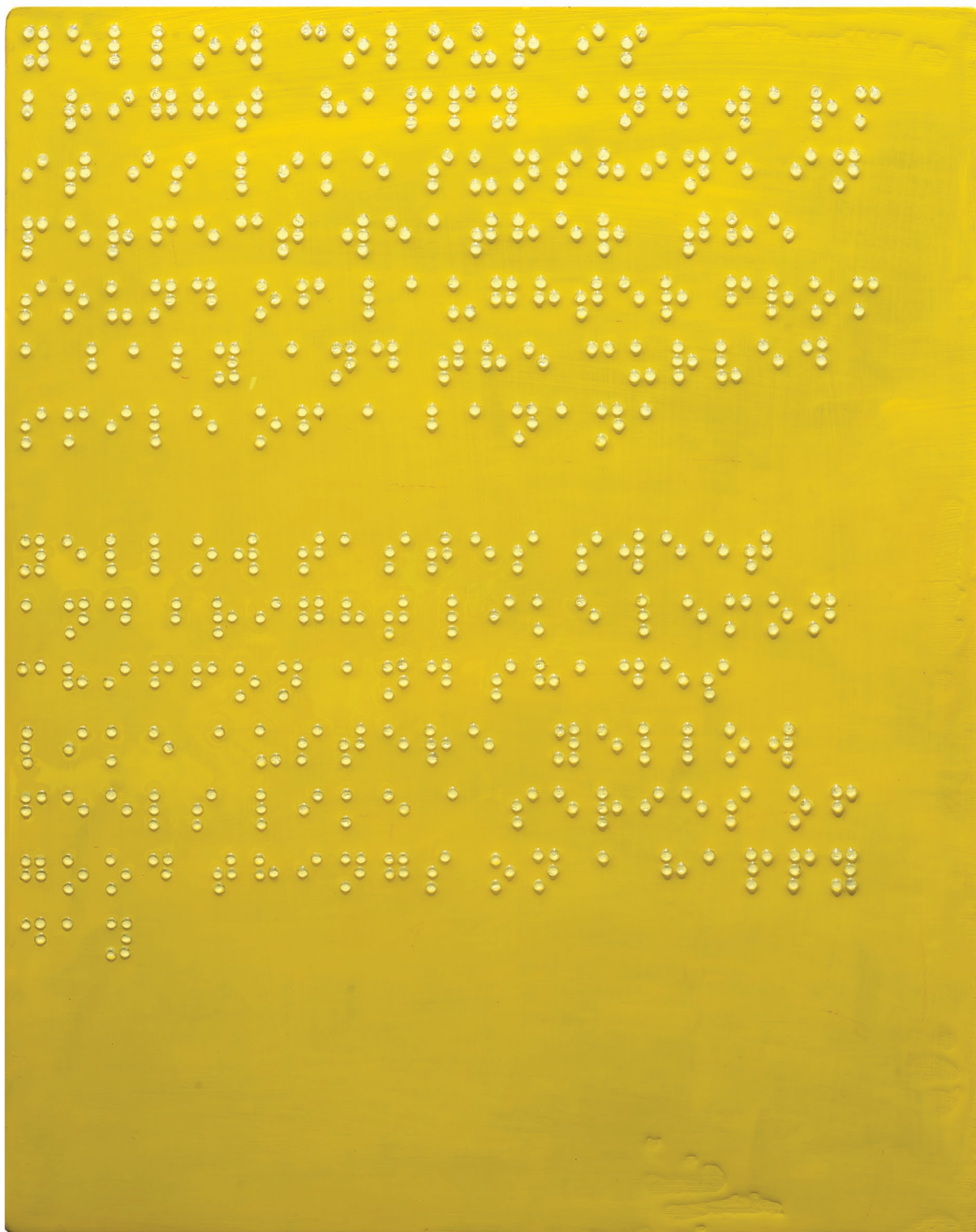
*Orange bouquet*  
3m vinyl dots, synthetic Nippon Paint and resin on board  
73.66cm x 58.42cm  
2023



*Cotilion red*  
3m vinyl dots, synthetic Nippon Paint and resin on board  
73.66cm x 58.42cm  
2023

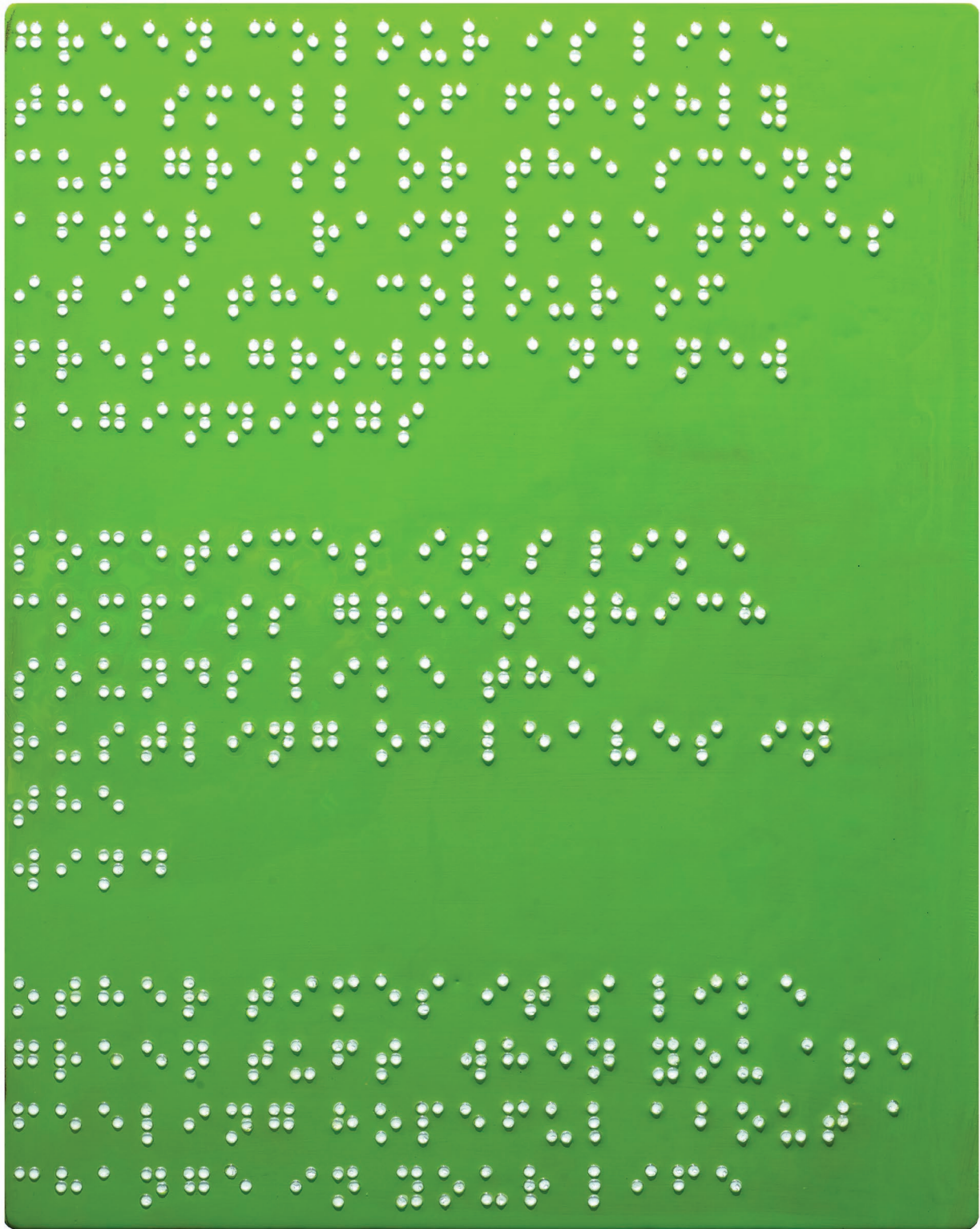


*Sky blue*  
3m vinyl dots, synthetic Nippon Paint and resin on board  
73.66cm x 58.42cm  
2023

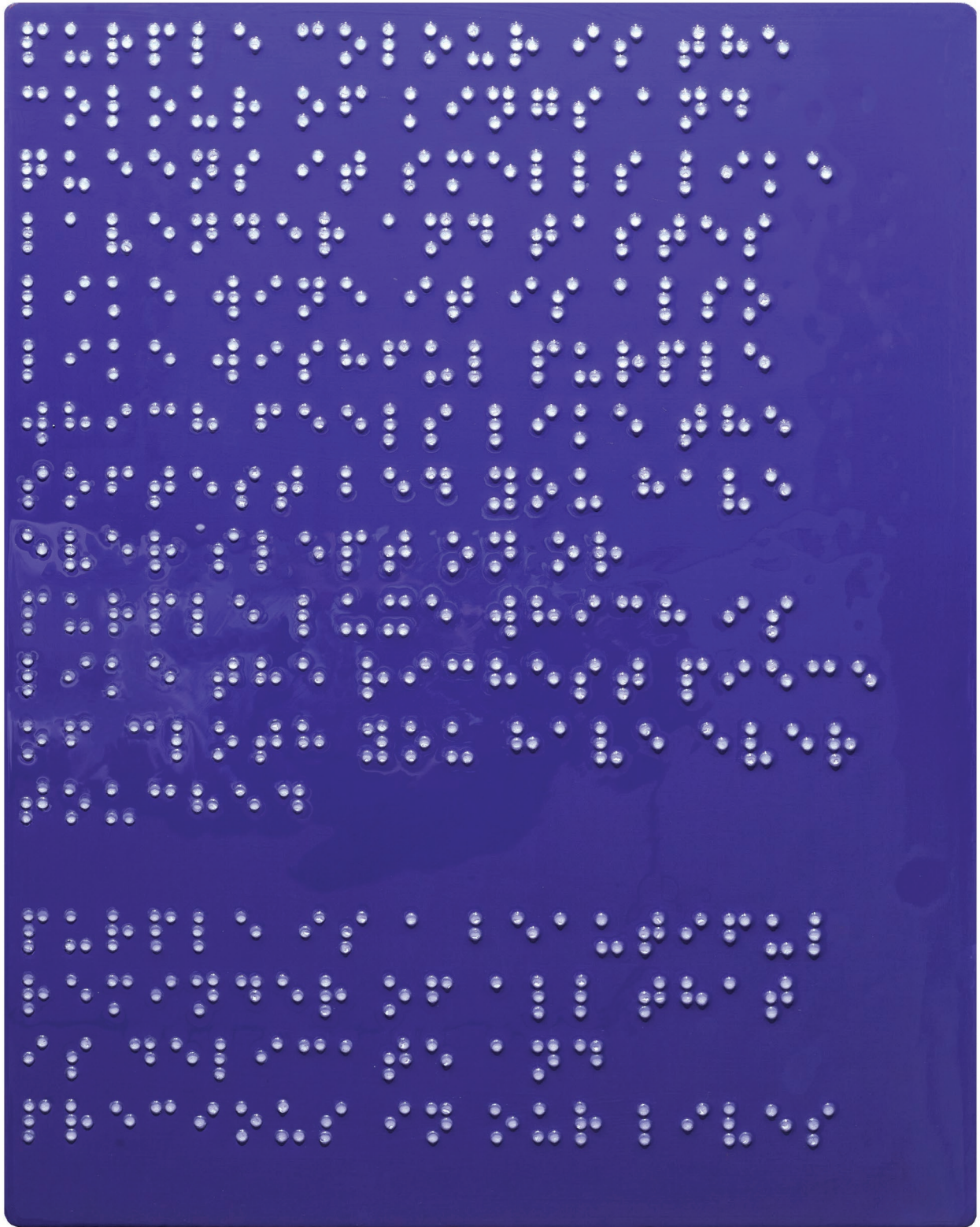


*Austere yellow*  
3m vinyl dots, synthetic Nippon Paint and resin on board  
73.66cm x 58.42cm  
2023





*Compass green*  
3m vinyl dots, synthetic Nippon Paint and resin on board  
73.66cm x 58.42cm  
2023



*Wishful purple*

3m vinyl dots, synthetic Nippon Paint and resin on board

73.66cm x 58.42cm

2023

## Ivan Lam (B.1975)



Ivan Lam (B. 1975) has earned a reputation as one of Malaysia's leading contemporary artists for his continuous ability to push the boundaries of his art practice. Unafraid to take risks and never content to lean on the familiar, he is constantly posing himself new challenges through experimentation with techniques and mediums, taking his art practice to the next level. In so doing he has evolved into an artist of critical acclaim who is answerable only to himself, consistently striving towards conceiving and actualizing new concepts and ideas.

Over the last 23 years he has charted new territory on the contemporary Malaysian art scene with his mastery of printmaking, his conquering of contemporary painting, through his trademark use of resin both imbuing his paintings with a technical ingenuity and transforms the narrative tone of the work – adding hyper-reality to the natural, distance to the familiar, pragmatism to pathos. Other dualities and dichotomies abound within his paintings and conceptual works, both harmoniously and in tension, underpinning his enquiries on popular culture, current affairs, art history and autobiography. His practice has recently taken on a more conceptual bias, raising questions around authorship, the role of the artist and the very nature of art itself.

He has exhibited widely in the local and international arena and has also garnered multiple awards in a career laden with solo and group exhibitions.

Ivan Lam has been recognized for his achievements and has been collected by reputed institutions in Malaysia, Europe and the USA. He was the first and only Malaysian artist selected to present a one-man project at the inaugural Art Basel Hong Kong in 2013, and was the first Malaysian artist commissioned by Louis Vuitton for their collection in 2014.

In 2017, he presented a performance work entitled '*Curating Human Experiences: Human Experience 66:06:06*' in Kuala Lumpur, and was the only artist from Malaysia invited to create a project for the Karachi Biennale in the same year.



Ivan Lam was one of four Malaysian artists to represent Malaysia at the country's first ever National Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia in 2019. The work presented, *One Inch* (2019) explores dualities and dichotomies which sit both harmoniously and in tension in Lam's work, beguiling the viewer to discover the multiple meanings within.

In 2020, he launched 'The Ivan Lam Giveaway' an online platform where art is used as a tool to promote action. In 2022, he presents '*catharsis*' - his most personal and important series to date. Consisting of five large-panelled paintings, '*catharsis*' encapsulates Lam's years of experiencing, understanding and accepting the depths of excruciating physical pain.



Installation view at Wei-Ling Contemporary, Brickfields

## **EDUCATION**

- 2006 University of East London, UK, MA in International Contemporary Art and Design Practice  
(Final Semester, Graduating Jan 2007)  
Professors: Hedley Roberts, Dr. Daniela Leva
- 1998 Maine College of Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting (Full Honours)  
Professors: Johnnie Ross, Honor Mack, Peter Sucheki, George Larou
- 1994 Lim Kok Wing Institute of Technology, Graphic Design Certificate

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2023 Blind Side, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2022 catharsis, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2021 THE SOIL ON WHICH I BLEED, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2020 small works + drawings, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2019 FAUX, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2018 Hymen, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2017 Curating Human Experiences 66:06:06, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
You said you'll never leave, Karachi Biennale 2017, Narayan Jagannath Vaidya, Karachi, Pakistan  
Vanity Project X, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
For those who don't believe, no proof is possible. 56/200, Art Stage Singapore 2017, Southeast Asia Forum - Net Present Value: Art, Capital, Futures, Marina Bay Sands Exhibition Centre, Singapore
- 2016 Cutting the lines that bind, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
VOLTA NEW YORK 2016, The Pier 90, New York, USA
- 2014 IVAN LAM: TWENTY, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2013 Day Zero Night Hero, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Art Basel Hong Kong 2013, Hong Kong Convention Centre, Hong Kong
- 2012 MACHINES, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2011 Together Alone, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Art Stage Singapore 2011, Marina Bay Sands Exhibition Centre, Singapore
- 2009 Panorama, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2007 Ivan Lam: After all these years....Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2004 Plosive, Taksu Gallery, Singapore
- 2004 Plosive, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2002 911, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1999 Bright side night light, Gallery Wan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1998 Ins and Outs, Crank, Portland, ME, USA  
MECA Senior Thesis Show, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland ME, USA  
Exit Removals, Artworks Gallery, Portland ME, USA

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2023 White Space: Lines at the Door, NAFA, Singapore  
HansaeYes24 Foundation International Culture Exchange Exhibition "Embrace Malaysia, Insa Art Center, Seoul, Korea
- 2022 A Paradigm Shift - Reflecting on Twenty Years of The Malaysian Art Scene, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2021 The Field Beyond, Lim Hak Tai Gallery @ NAFA Campus 1, Singapore  
"Aesthetics of Silence", Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
100 Pieces: Art for All, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2019 18@8 Turning Points, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Holding Up a Mirror, Malaysia Pavilion, Palazzo Malipiero, 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia
- 2018 Teh Tarik with The Flag, curated by Wei-Ling Gallery, in association with The National Visual Arts Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Seen, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- 2017 18@8 RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2016 The Past Is Never Where You Think You Left It, curated by Gowri Balasegaran, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Art Stage Singapore 2016, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
- 2015 The Space Between, curated by Anurendra Jegadeva & Rahel Joseph, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 The PEAK Group Show- HO MIA, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2013 18@8 Mirror, Mirror on the wall, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2012 18@8 KUL-SIN, ION Art, Singapore  
18@8 KUL-SIN, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Timeless, Group Exhibition, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Directional Forces, Artoll, Bedburg-hau, Germany
- 2011 18@8 Save The Planet, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008 18@8 Vice and Virtue, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Christie's SEA Art Auction, Hong Kong  
CIGE (China International Gallery Exposition) China World Trade Center, Beijing, China  
Force of Nature, Pace, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
- 2007 Filtered, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
The Force of Nature, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2006 Larasati Art Auction, Singapore  
"18@8", KUALA LUMPUR-KARACHI, AMIN GULGEE GALLERY, KARACHI, PAKISTAN (in collaboration with Wei-Ling Gallery)  
Au Naturel, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
3 Young Contemporaries (1997-2006), Valentine Willie Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Nasi Campur 2006, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2005 "18@8", Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Identifying Landscape, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2004 Philip Morris Asean Art Awards 2004, National Art Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand  
10th Anniversary, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Footsteps, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
ArtFair Singapore, Singapore
- 2003 Taksu Singapore Opening, Singapore  
Taksu Jakarta Opening, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2002 ArtFair Singapore, Singapore
- 2000 <1000, Valentine Willie Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Transformations, Sculpture Square, Singapore  
Untitled, Galeri Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia  
Arus: Flow (Australia-Malaysia Electronic Art, Joint Show), National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1999 Philip Morris 99, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Aku: 99 Portret Diri, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1998 Sequence 11, Timed Based Art, Imaging Center, Portland, Maine, USA
- 1997 Maine Art Auction, Selected for Live Auction, Portland, Maine, USA  
Artworks, Portland ME, USA

## **AWARDS**

- 2006 Group Exhibit, Sovereign Art Prize (Top 10 Finalists), Hong Kong
- 2003 Group Exhibit (Grand Prize Winner), Philip Morris 2003, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2001 Group Exhibit (Honourable Mention), Phillip Morris 2001, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1999 One person Exhibit, Bright Sight Night Lights, Galeriwan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1996 Merit Scholarship Exhibit, 1st Place, MECA, Portland, ME, USA

## **SELECTED COLLECTIONS**

Artoll, Germany

Catlin Re Collection, Switzerland

Crank Design Consultant, Maine, USA

Galeri Petronas, Malaysia

HSBC, Malaysia

Louis Vuitton

Merrill Lynch, Maine, USA

National Art Gallery, Malaysia

The Aliya & Farouk Khan Collection, Malaysia

Private Collectors



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With support from



Produced by Wei-Ling Gallery

To accompany the exhibition entitled '*Blind Side*' by Ivan Lam from 20th April - 3rd May 2023

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COVER IMAGE | Ivan Lam - *Blind Side*

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