

## A GRASSHOPPER HOPS 有蚱蜢跳

In his garden, days align like geometric shapes,  
Colors in opposition, while the lines of fate rest gently in place.

by Jui-Che Wu

# A Grasshopper Hops

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**Author:** Jui-Che Wu **Illustrator:** Jui-Che Wu **Publisher:** Locus Publishing

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**Translator:** Nicholas Wang

Jui-Che Wu employs paper cutting and collage as his primary creative media. *A Grasshopper Hops* builds upon Wu's 2021 *Greenhouse* series, exploring themes of abandonment and rebirth. The book represents the author's thoughtful re-editing and reinterpretation of his own work. Whether presented as a picture book or an illustrated book, it stands out for its unique thematic perspective and distinctive style, making it a rare creation in contemporary Taiwan. This is Jui-Che Wu's debut graphic work.



Author **Jui-Che Wu**

Born in 1992, Jui-Che Wu is an image creator who graduated from the Royal College of Art in the UK, specializing in Visual Communication with a focus on illustration. He draws with scissors, occasionally writes, and engages in visual design. He believes in the equality of all living beings, including insects and humans. In recent years, his creative focus has centered on poetry, narrative, and material translation, exploring new storytelling possibilities through the medium of books.

His published works include *A Horse, A Boat and An Apple Tree* and *Le Défilé*. Notably, *Le Défilé* has been permanently collected by the libraries of Central Saint Martins and Chelsea College of Arts and was featured in the Japanese magazine *Brutus*. Wu has been selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition and the Portuguese Illustrarte Illustration Biennial, and he has twice won the Golden Butterfly Award at the Taipei International Book Exhibition. His recent design works include *The Beeless Beehive*, *Practice of Saying Goodbye*, and *Scientists*.

# Shaping Life with Scissors: A Note from the Author

by Jui-Che Wu

Over two years ago, I created a series called *Greenhouse*, which laid the foundation for *A Grasshopper Hops*. My initial plan was to extend the series across a range of fragmented narratives, creating a space, theme, and objects through stories that interlock from various directions. For me, creation is about honesty, following life, and not forcing it. Many initial ideas were discarded in the process, and even my favorite pieces were cut out before finalizing the book. This process is a lot like building a house: it requires quiet observation and a careful reworking of details.

While revisiting the leftover paper scraps, I recalled a piece that I created many years ago, *We Are Not Protagonists*, created during my first winter in London.

The first heavy snowstorm in years made me think of my sub-tropical island home. The scraps on the desk, leftover and unnecessary, felt like my solitary journey. I rearranged them, trying to give them meaning.

One section in *A Grasshopper Hops* reflects this experience. Over the past two years, I have been juggling freelance work while carving out time for personal creativity. I set myself a challenge: to create one image every day. It was an exercise in building new routines—adding shapes and colors to blank paper and completing each piece on time. After all, completion is always the hardest part.

I've been practicing completion. *A Grasshopper Hops* went through many versions—I've lost count of how

many. In each, I saw myself—the flow of the narrative, the satisfaction, the dissatisfaction, the completeness and the gaps. I constantly oscillated between feeling it was never enough. What is enough? I can't answer. It's a feeling. Later, I realized that doing my best in the moment is good enough. Accepting imperfection leads to progress in the next attempt. This is the essence of creation. This is life.

The narrative of *A Grasshopper Hops* begins with a grasshopper, a morning, and a grassy field. Then it moves to a wall, a window, a floral tablecloth, followed by an evening, a pond, and finally circles back to the wall, the window, and the floral tablecloth, before concluding in a (definitive?) place. The colors flow from

yellow, silver, white, dark green, purple, to blue. I revisited *Espèces d'espaces* by Georges Perec, whose experiments with space, from a blank page to a whole world, helped me understand the essence of the book: "To live is to move from one space to another."

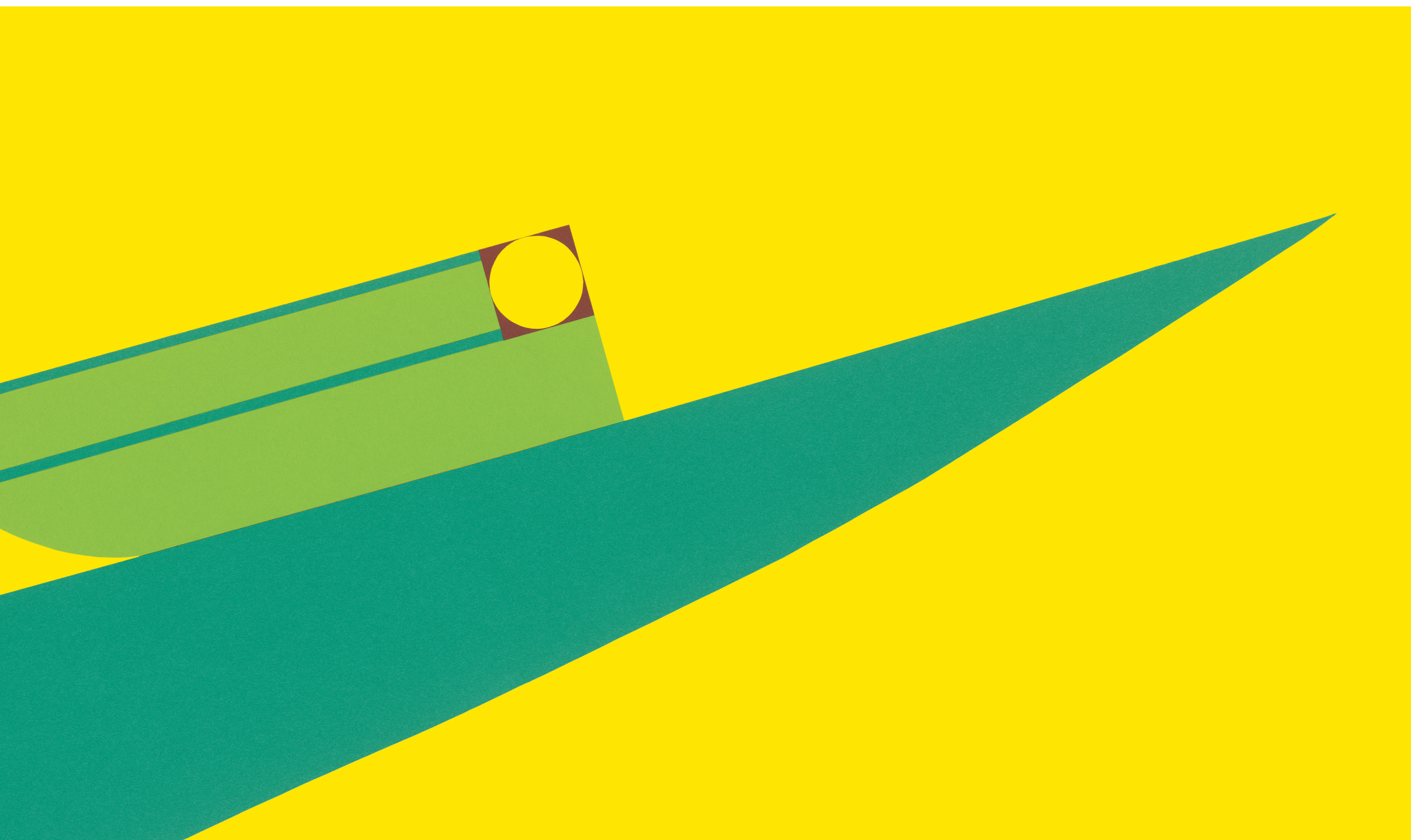
*A Grasshopper Hops* is my first creation after returning to Taiwan in 2019, a result of years of accumulation and reflection. It is clean, sharp, and yet honestly reflects the rough edges of my life—like those paper scraps I collected in a box: incomplete, scattered, and purposeless. They may not have a message, but they are an essential part of the book and my life.



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translated from the Taiwanese Mandarin by Nicholas Wong





Days passing as such  
Before the mud dries up, a fly’s wings flap  
I open a window, open a passage for my lungs  
Behind it, a music score  
And if you walk a bit further, a park. A sun  
turns the doorknob, descends the stairs

