



Where's Where?

A Full English translation is available.

哪邊是哪邊

Author: Hsiao-Chi Chang **Illustrator:** Hsiao-Chi Chang **Publisher:** Nan I Book Enterprise Co., Ltd.

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Rights contact: bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

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The three little protagonists don't like watching where they're going—so they close their eyes and dive headfirst into adventure. They don't know which way is which—but maybe, just maybe, they'll end up on the side with the most beautiful view.

Selected for the 2021 Bologna Illustrators Exhibition, *Where's Where?* is a whimsically illustrated picture book that invites children to explore their dreams, believe in themselves, and step into a world of boundless imagination.



Author Hsiao-Chi Chang

Hsiao-Chi Chang graduated from the Fine Arts Department at National Kaohsiung Normal University and earned her MFA in Illustration from the Academy of Art University in the U.S., specializing in children's picture books. She loves stars, fish, and milk tea, and spends much of her time observing—people, objects, moments, stories, and the sky. When she wants to be alone, she slips away to unfamiliar places and hides in quiet corners to draw. She enjoys talking to herself, and her work appears in children's picture books, magazines, and journals, alongside her own ongoing picture book projects. These days, she finds herself drawing with more and more freedom.

Honesty Shapes Art: An Interview with Picture Book Artist Hsiao-Chi Chang

by Wu Wen-Chun
(originally published on OKAPI)

In both 2020 and 2021, Hsiao-Chi Chang was selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in Italy. Known for weaving images into stories, she has published picture books including *While Waiting For Mama*, *The Moon Today*, and *Where's Where?* Her writing flows with intuitive, childlike rhythm, often avoiding structured rhyme in favor of spontaneous phrasing—like in the line: *This way, we mix up what's what / We get all mixed up! / Where's where?*

These soft, poetic lines feel like a mix of babble and verse—relaxed, playful, and natural to read aloud. In *Where's Where?* the protagonist is lost from beginning to end, yet utterly unbothered. The book offers a quiet kind of philosophical wonder, suggesting that any path might be the right one—a feeling that reflects Chang's own creative journey.

Q: Your picture book feels playful yet philosophical. What inspired that sense of ambiguity?

I like things that stay vague and unresolved. One day in 2018, I was resting against my wall when the phrase “Where's where?” popped into my head. The story came from that mood—not logic, but a hazy, floating feeling. When I first tried drawing it, everything was still unclear. I kept sketching to capture the atmosphere. Since the story is about not knowing one's own direction, I wanted the visuals to carry that same sense of uncertainty.

Q: You've said your process is intuitive. How did that play out in this book?

Very much so. I didn't plan much, and the first storyboard felt stiff. In the second,

I made the characters transparent to express shifting identities. They came out weak, but I kept going anyway. At first, I used only yellow and blue because they matched the early mood. Later, I realized that no longer felt honest, so I added more colors and experimented with different materials—acrylic, watercolor, crayon, collage. Most, however, didn't work.

Eventually, I gave up trying to control everything and returned to drawing the way I do in my personal sketchbooks—no fixed shapes or rules. That's when the images began to come alive.

Q: You've said, “The more honest people are with themselves, the better they draw.” What does that mean to you?

This has to do with intention. If I draw something because it worked before, or to imitate someone else, that line isn't honest. But if I know why I'm making each stroke, with no other agenda, then I usually like the result. That kind of honesty takes space—emotional and creative. Sometimes I have it, sometimes I don't. When I don't, I just try to be a little honest. That's enough.

Q: The book has a glow-in-the-dark surprise. How did that idea emerge?

It was my editor at Kido Family Time (Nan I Book's imprint) who suggested it. She said the story reflects how we move forward without knowing, often missing

things along the way. Glow-in-the-dark ink can reveal what we don't notice.

At first, we ran into technical issues. Stronger inks contain heavy metals, so we chose a safer, eco-friendly option, even though it needed more light to activate. I had to adjust my color palette, too. The production became a real collaboration, involving editors, printers, and ink experts. It wasn't just my book anymore—it belonged to all of us.

Q: The protagonist never really knows where they are but keeps going. Is that how you see creativity—or life?

Yes. That's how many of us live—we move without knowing where we're going, and that's okay. There's no single “right” direction. That's why I love the title *Where's Where?*. The book is a question that doesn't demand answers. It allows this question to remain open.

This interview has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.

Wu Wen-Chun is a writer and a passionate advocate for picture book aesthetics and literature. She is a regular picture book columnist and freelance editor, and formerly served as chief editor of image3. Deeply inspired by novels, poetry, film, painting, and writing, she weaves these into her daily life. In the adult world, she strives to hold onto a child's heart and a vivid imagination.

Somehow or other,
I ended up over here.





Somehow or other.....



I'm here.