

我們如水流動
Like Water, We Flow

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■ ——— 劉靜怡 Raito Low 文 ——— 馬利 Ma Li

Like Water, We Flow

A Full English translation is available.

我們如水流動

Author: Ma Li **Illustrator:** Raito Low **Publisher:** Locus Publishing

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BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

During a residency at Makotaay Eco-Art Village in Hualien, Malaysian artist Raito Low was deeply moved by the harmony of nature expressed by the Amis people, an Indigenous group native to Taiwan. There, she rediscovered stones—not as lifeless objects, but as soft, story-filled forms shaped by time. This insight inspired her stop-motion work, later developed into the picture book *Like Water, We Flow*, in collaboration with writer Ma Li. Her poetic text and Raito's gentle visuals blend into a surreal, flowing narrative where stones speak quietly, like water—tender, powerful, and alive.



Author Ma Li

Ma Li is a seasoned writer and editor. His novels include *Abi Sword: Prequel* (Volume 1 and Volume 2). He has written the screenplay for Zheng Wen's comic book *Abi Sword*. Both the comic and the novel have had their film and TV rights sold. His picture book screenplays include *Cotton Snow*, illustrated by Ping Fan, and *The Seed and the Wind*, illustrated by Yu-hsuan Wang and co-written with Shi-yi Yang.



Illustrator Raito Low

Originally from Malaysia and currently based in Taiwan, Raito Low is a stop-motion animation artist. She holds a Master's degree in Multimedia and Animation Arts from National Taiwan University of Arts and is the founder of LaiDuo Studio.

Guided by the spirit of experimental animation, she uses plants as a core creative material to develop a visual language that bridges humanity and nature. Her directorial works include *Fissure*, *The Blooming Seed*, *Flowers Dancing in the Breeze*, and *Soft as a Stone*, which have been selected by over a hundred film festivals both in Taiwan and internationally. As a stop-motion animator, she has also participated in projects such as *Splendid Landscape*, *Sick Rose*, and *Tropical Compound Eye*.

In Stones, A Surprising Metaphor for Human Softness

by Shan-Chung Yang

“Many believe we are hard—able to fly like bullets afar.”

What words come to mind when you think of a stone? Hard, solid, sharp...or maybe just boring?

Living in the city, we often overlook stones—or rarely encounter them at all. To most people, stones are silent, lifeless things. Motionless and passive, they are shaped into tools, weapons, or construction materials. Their individual character disappears into the noise of human civilization.

But from the point of view of Raito Low, a Malaysian stop-motion animator living in Taiwan, stones tell a very different story. Known for using plants and natural elements in her work, Raito fuses humanity and nature through her tender

gaze. With the poetic writing of Ma Li, she brings the stones of Taiwan’s east coast to life. Words and images join in a stop-motion narrative where still stones begin to move. Stones roll across the pages with a quiet poetry that reveals the natural world from a deeply human perspective.

Stones, often seen as unbreakable, are in fact shaped by softness—by water, wind, and time. These forces give each stone its unique texture, color, brightness, and pores. From tiny grains of sand to towering mountains, stones take on endless forms. And through Raito Low’s close, meditative observation, the subtle differences between them are magnified and celebrated. They begin to feel alive—each a small universe, carrying within it the traces of the world.

“Because we are soft, no two stones are the same.”

Though the book speaks of stones, it also speaks of us humans.

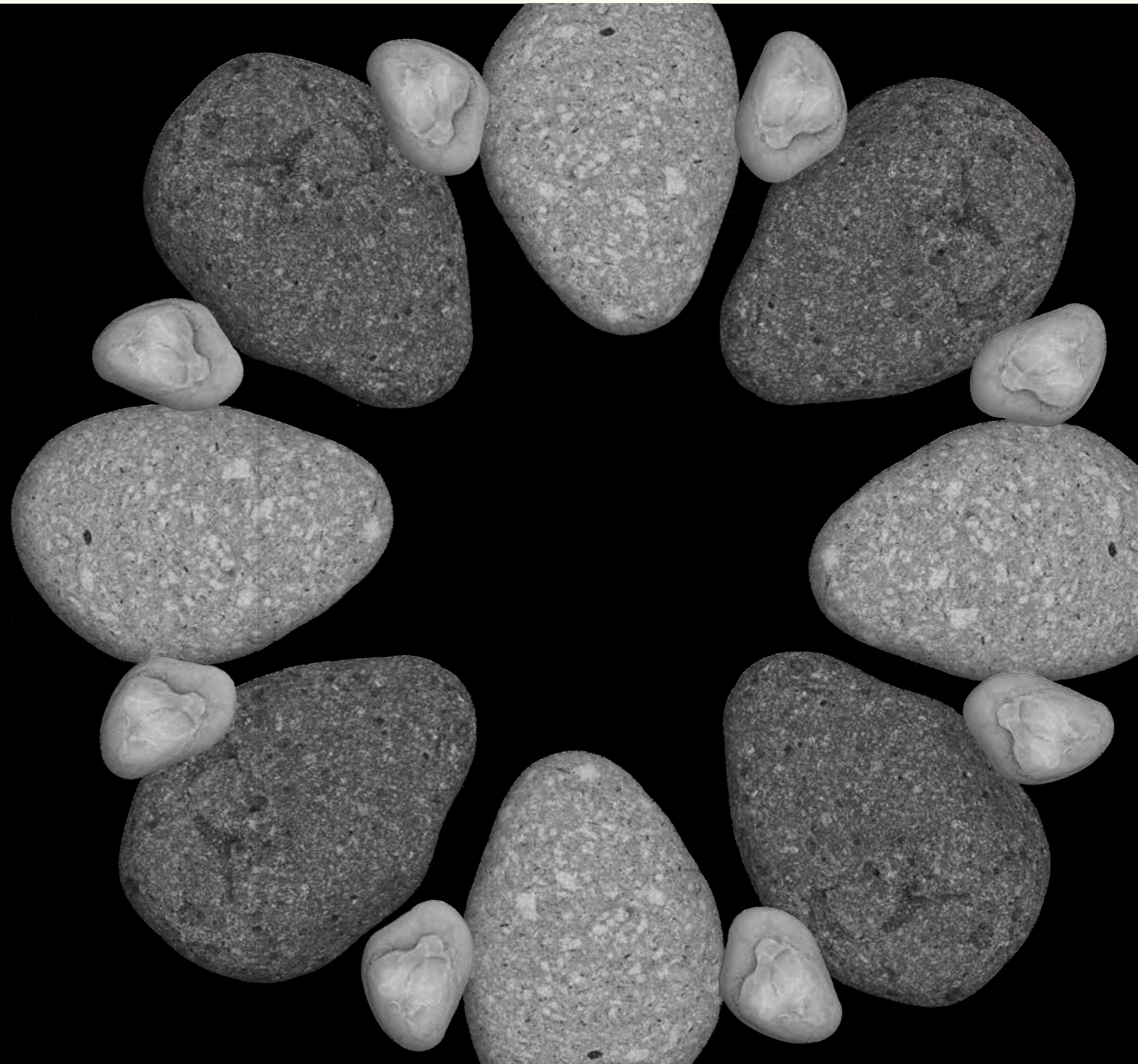
In a capitalist society, we often feel like interchangeable screws—slotted into predetermined holes, stripped of individuality. On days where we’re feeling low, we may tell ourselves we’re indistinguishable from others. But the truth is, we each carry our own history—of time, place, love, and pain. These experiences etch lines into our being. Cracks, in turn, form textures and ways to reflect light. The marks we bear thus result from our contact with the world, reminding us that each life is rare and different.

Through this book, you are invited

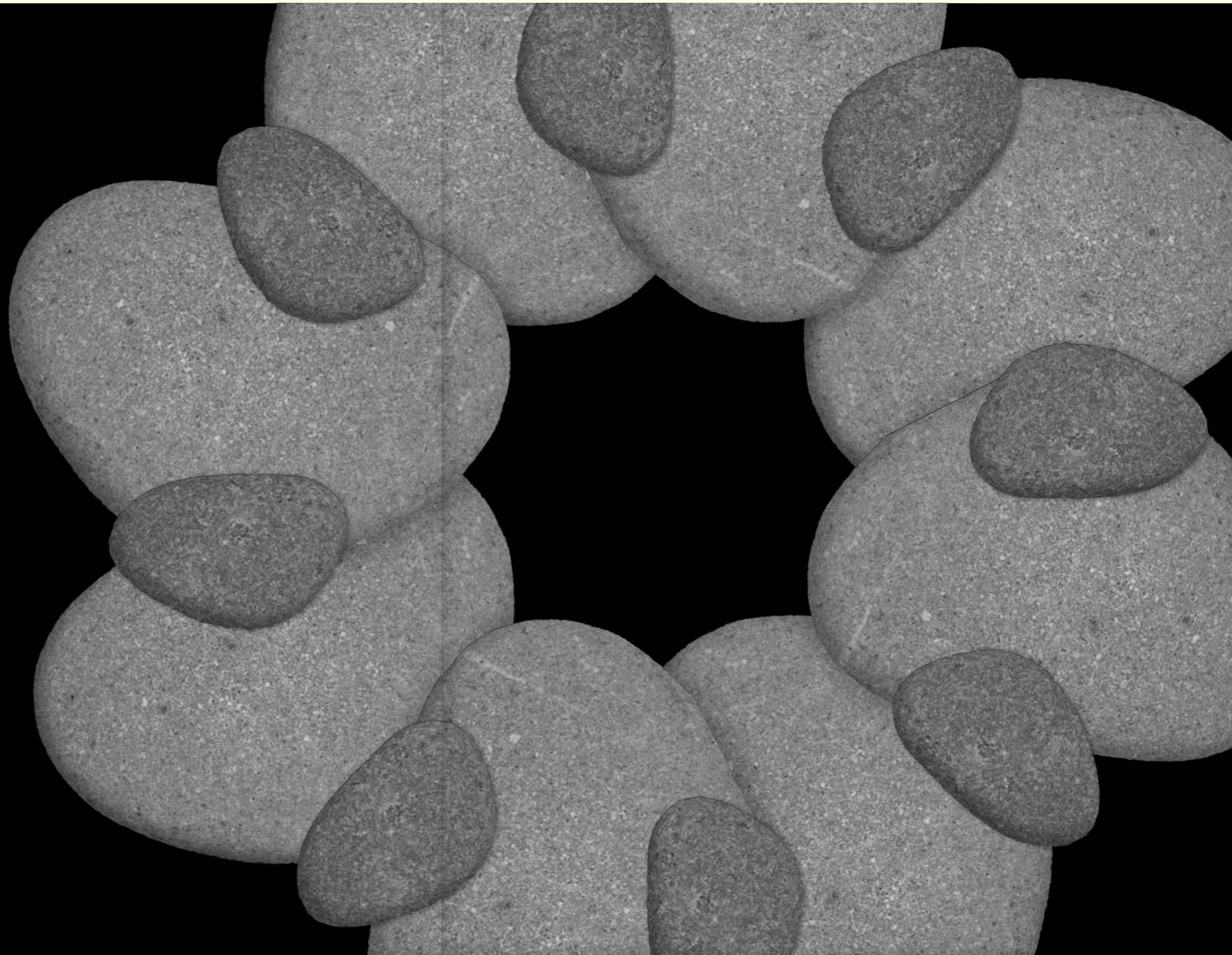
to take a closer look at nature. Read the lines of leaves and stones, and you’ll rediscover the quiet power of softness. It shapes mountains—and people—into something uniquely beautiful.

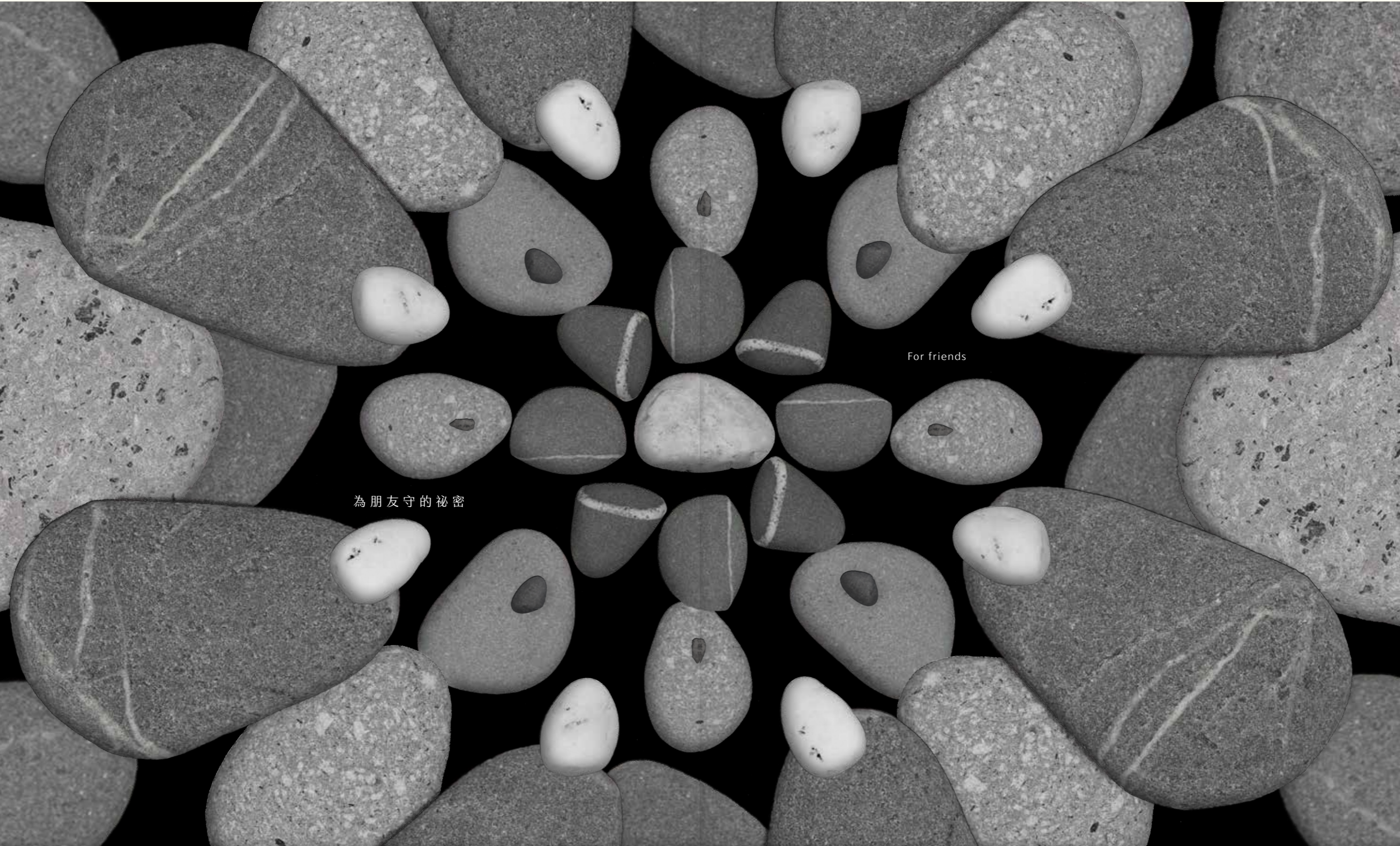
Born in the winter of the subtropics, Shan-Chung Yang graduated from the Department of History at National Taiwan University. She has been a high school teacher and literary event planner. Yang loves the trees and climate of the temperate zone, as well as calendars that start on Sundays. Her life idols are the clumsy, ice-climbing Adélie penguins. She is a bear fanatic but would also like to be friends with big dogs.

為國王守的祕密 For kings



為宇宙守的祕密 For the cosmos





為朋友守的祕密

For friends