

ART IS JUSTICE

Ping Chong on using art to empower and heal

Ping Chong believes that theater can be used as a tool for healing. "I'm creating spaces for ordinary citizens to feel empowered to speak onstage, telling their own truth."

This video is part of the #ArtIsJustice series. Throughout U.S. history, artists and cultural leaders have been at the forefront of social change. Today, in the face of growing intolerance and widening inequality, artists stand up to these injustices, reminding us all that Art IS Justice.

Transcript begins.

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Empathy, Practice, Hope, Change, Beauty...it stops at Action. Art Is Action.]

[Multimedia performances, installations, and workshops are interspersed throughout the video from puppeteers to live stage productions.]

Ping Chong, theater director and artist: For me, it's about the urgency of being a proactive artist. We're drifting so far away from our humanity, not only because of politics but because of technology, that we need to retrieve who we are. In my own work, I'm creating spaces for ordinary citizens to feel empowered to speak onstage, telling their own truth.

There's been over 60 productions with different communities—with the Congolese community, victims of war, with folks who were sexually abused as children, with people who have disabilities. Part of my work is also about healing. It's about helping people feel reaffirmed. That has value in helping to create a society that's more just and more humane.

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Action, Expression, Change, Creativity, Hope...it stops at Justice. Hashtag Art Is Justice. Agree? Share this video.]

[Ford Foundation logo: a globe made up of a series of small, varied circles.]

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End of transcript.