



A visual representation of "modern concrete" by Eddie Tay

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## modern concrete

Eddie Tay

*i try for colour  
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*concrete is modern as airports  
bridges pavements and the river still  
a river and functional*

*the cars gleam silver like fishes*

*i try for colour  
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*the new hermit  
a snail of a shell is modern and not seen  
like wi fi*

*he lives within a mountain  
of pigeon flats  
holes in an economy of a few million snails  
by the bank of pale water*

*the cars gleam silver like fishes*

*i try for colour  
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*so here's the housing project in chunks  
with mended words*

*the cars gleam silver like fishes*

Hong Kong is a modern city. There are often projects for 'improving' the city. They usually tear down old infrastructure and replace them with new skyscrapers. Through this piece of digital art, I hope to present another perspective of modernisation of Hong Kong – the loss of vitality. I drew towering buildings with solid straight lines in black and white and contrast them with soft, harmonious and colourful snapshots of neon signs that symbolise traditional local cultures. I also drew an airplane soaring in the grey lifeless sky to express the rapid urbanisation of Hong Kong. In Eddie Tay's 'modern concrete', he tries to bring warmth and vibrancy back into the practical but cold world. However, his attempts are futile and as insubstantial as a wisp of smoke. This was illustrated by the blurry and translucent snapshots of the neon lights to represent the limited impacts that fade away gradually. But I believe Hong Kong will become a much more vibrant city if we embrace the traditional cultures in the process of modernisation. We need to revitalise our home and retain its genuineness and warmth even our city is rapidly developing.

### Positive value(s) and attitude(s):

Care and genuineness