



MAKING *A* POINT

TEXT: ANN TSANG

IMAGES: NG LUNG WAI COURTESY OF A2Z ART GALLERY, HONG KONG

Born and raised in Hong Kong before the return of the sovereignty, Ng Lung Wai is a visual artist very much influenced by Western eugenics. As with many Hong Kongers from the 1970s of Chinese ethnic decent, culturally he feels "Chinese", despite the inevitable influence drawn from a hybrid lifestyle that was not uncommon among this generation of Hong Kongers.



In his solo exhibition "One Person – Two Systems" a reflection of Ng Lung Wai's cultural identity, the artist once again invokes poignant and iconic portraits. Working with a new range of materials, which juxtapose cultural references recalling Ng's observations of the developing landscapes, it is through these works that we see Eastern and Western tools of artistic creation, or the familiar objects representative of war strategy games, becoming the points or pixels.

With craftsmanship equally as remarkable as that of the artist's earlier works exhibited in his '1960s Icon' exhibition, Ng, with his own take on Pointillism, constructs artworks with a surgical like precision.

Neo-Impressionists Georges Seurat and Paul Signac pioneered the technique dubbed 'Pointillism', which was revolutionary for its time. Bored of traditional paintings, certain artists of the era were searching for new ways to make "impressions" of landscapes and day-to-day life. Seurat and Signac looked to science for inspiration, and discovered how to trick the eye into seeing more in a painting than the sum of its parts: an arrangement of coloured dots.

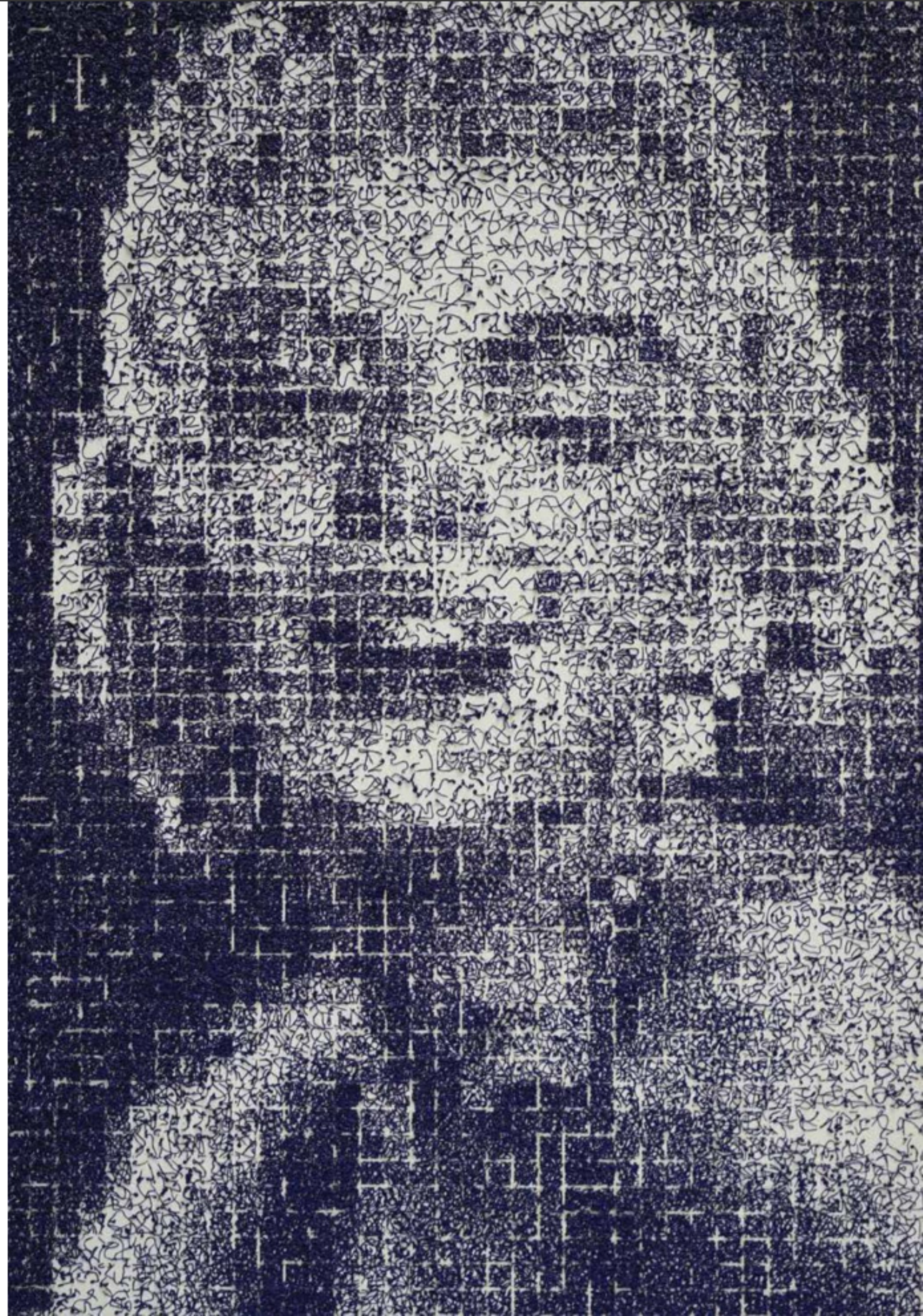
Informally known as stippling art or dot art, since its inception, Pointillism has influenced many artists working across a diverse

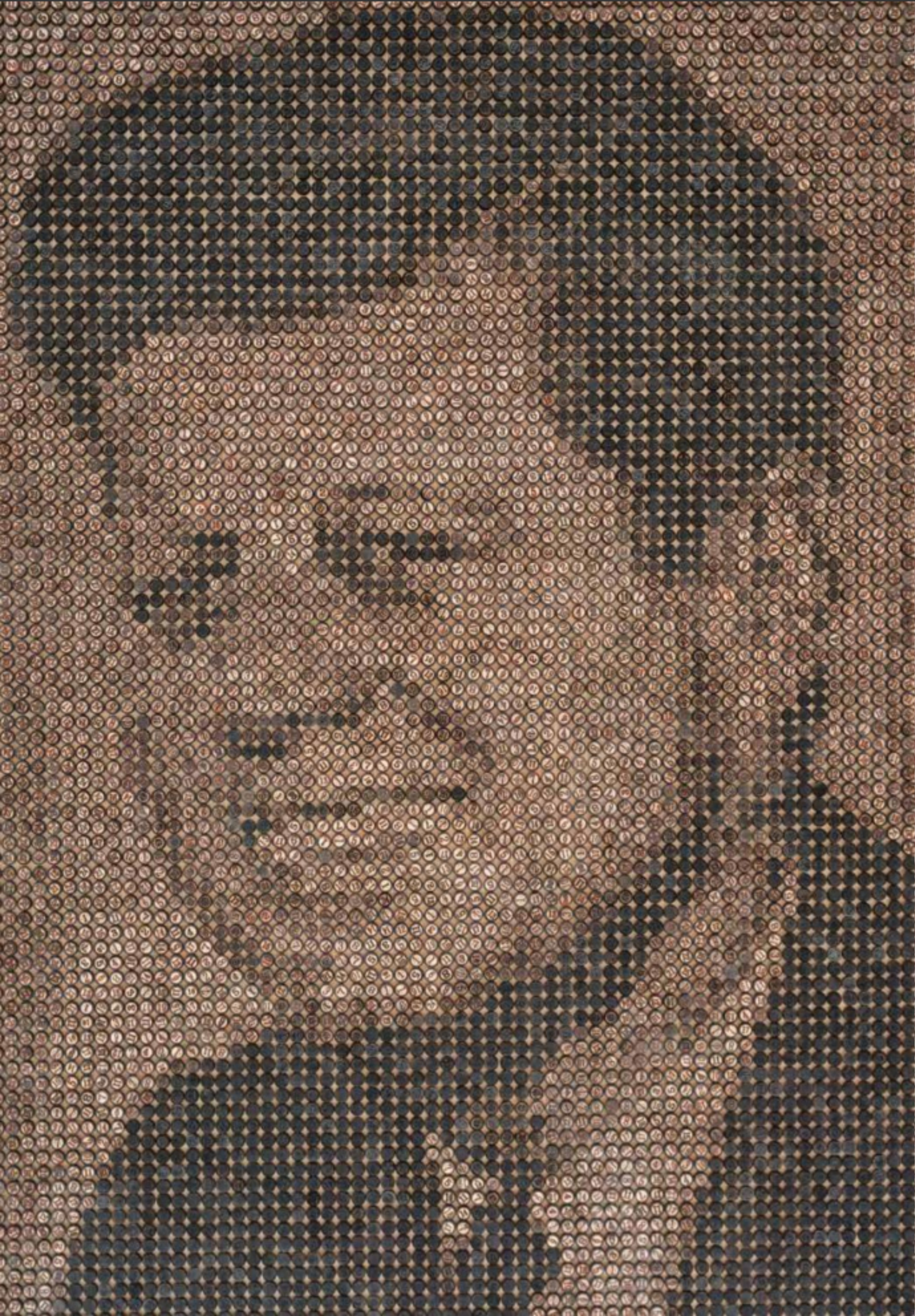
range of mediums, and today we see traces of it in modern art, fashion, and tattoos. The technique uses distinct dots of colour, which are meticulously arranged in patterns to compose a cohesive image.

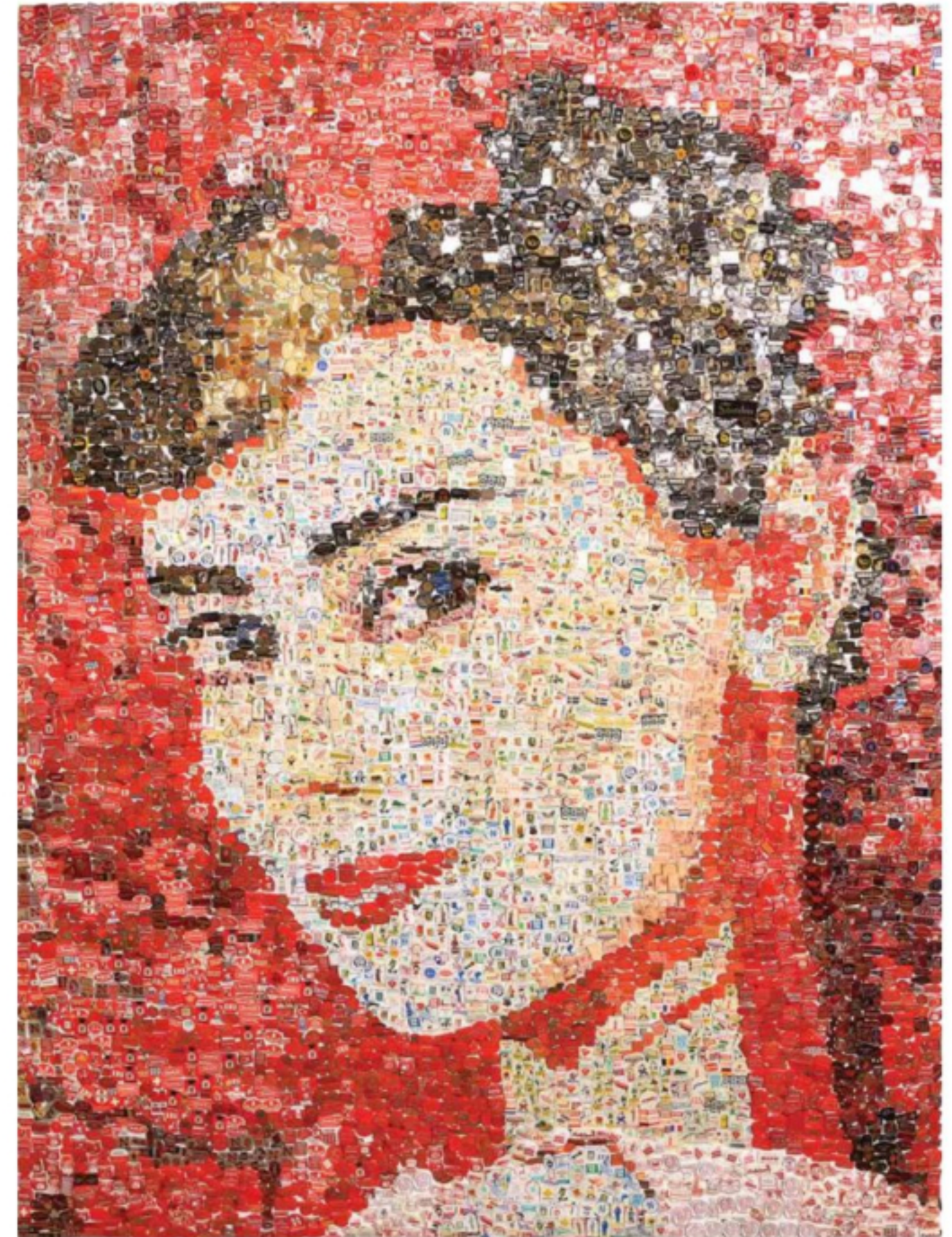
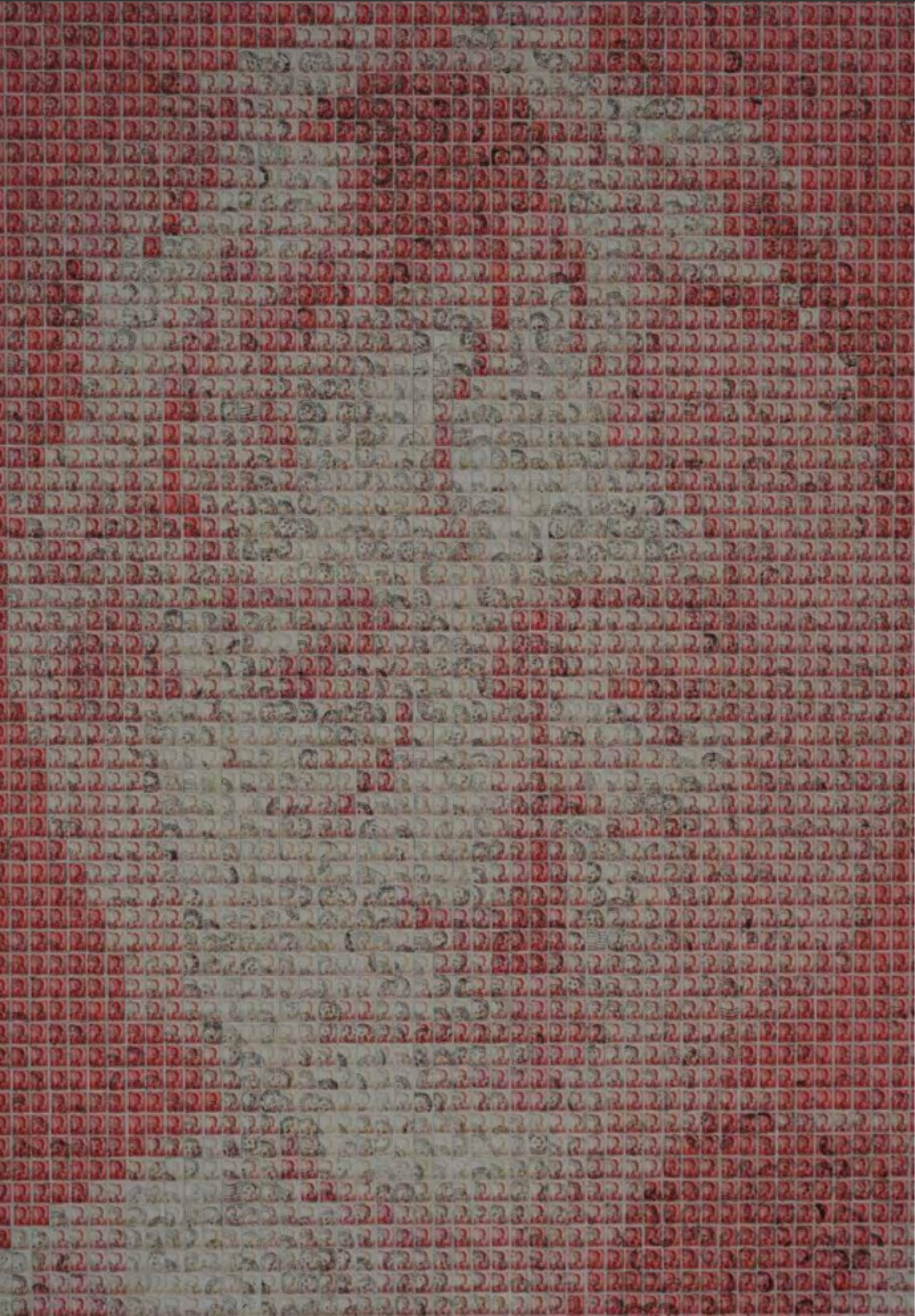
While Impressionists such as Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh often used small dabs and strokes of paint as part of their technique, Pointillism artists took this idea a step further, by painting tightly packed, individual dots of pure colour. When viewed from afar, the viewer's mind and eye blur the dots together to create detailed images, comprising a fuller range of tones than the dots alone provide.

Through his own unique take on Pointillism, Ng works with a versatile range of materials to express his desired outcome, often replacing paint with symbolic collectible items, such as lapel pins, or memorable and suitably iconic paraphernalia.

Taking influence as a young Hong Kong man, from the 1960s culture, particularly Western culture, Wai has not only portrayed the images of iconic and important personalities which resonate in popular culture due to the subjects' important place in history individually, but he also takes his creations to the next level by using specifically relevant materials for each individual icon.







In December 2017, Ng unveiled his latest installation project at the Concord Commercial Building located on Hong Kong's Kings Road. The first of its kind in the SAR, this was the largest installation artwork that the artist had ever attempted, comprising of more than 6,000 miniature Marilyn Monroe portraits, each being one of the 6,000 pixels that make up his Elvis Presley portrait. Continuing his study of popular iconic figures, Ng again used his very unique "Contextual Pointillism" technique to highlight important stories and messages, whilst simultaneously reflecting on the mysterious relationship between the two 1950s stars Monroe and Presley.

Ng is undoubtedly an extremely exciting and versatile artist. His works induce a level of exhilaration borne from the visionary brilliance of his composition and his level of natural enthusiasm unquestionably exudes through his practice.

Simply having the foresight to compose portraits with such a diverse selection of materials causes his audience to revel in contemplation upon discovering his artworks for the first time.

'One Person - Two Systems' runs from 24 March - 29 April 2018 at A2Z Art Gallery, 20 Gage Street, Central, Hong Kong
a2z-art.com