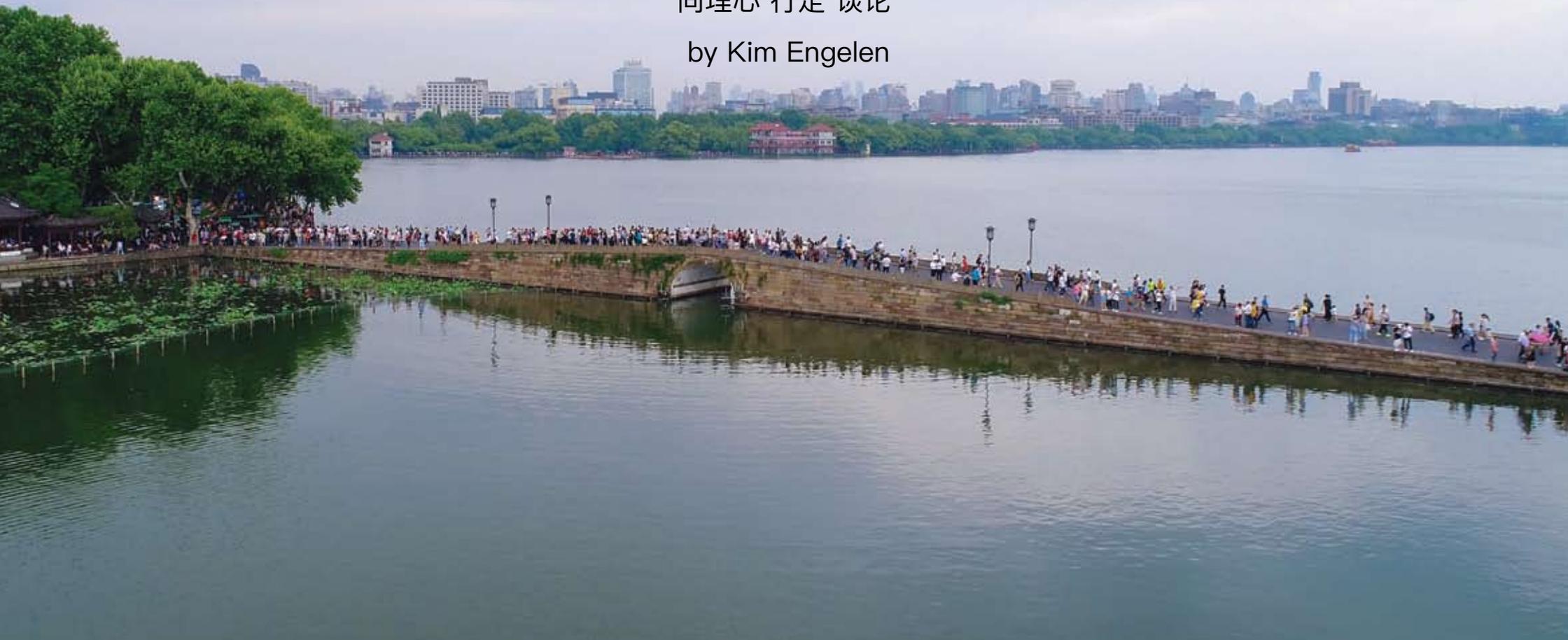


# EMPATHETIC WALKING PANEL

同理心 行走 谈论

by Kim Engelen





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## INTRO

During the group-exhibition “Unstruct”, in Hangzhou, China, Kim Engelen showed a video still frame, presented in a light-box, of her bridge-performance called “Empathetic Walking Panel”. The performance was captured using a drone video camera and shows “The Broken Bridge” from above. For Engelen the bridge is a symbol of transition and connection. And during the bridge-performance “Empathetic Walking Panel” Engelen asked three thought-provoking questions about the expat community living in Hangzhou, China. The transcript of this conversation is presented in this book.

## 介绍

在中国杭州的团体展览“Unstruct”(无操作说明)中，Kim Engelen 将会在灯箱中展示一段视频表演，名字是“Empathetic Walking Panel”(同理心 行走 谈论)。这段表演是使用无人机从断桥上方拍摄的。对于Engelen来说桥是过渡和连接的象征。在视频中Engelen提出了三个发人深省的问题，关于居住在中国杭州的外籍人士。这次谈话的内容会记录在一本书中在展览中展示。



## EMPATHETIC WALKING PANEL

### 同理心 行走 谈论

Kim: Hello everybody, we are on the “Broken Bridge” in Hangzhou, China. And I am here with Helen and Matteo.

大家好，我们现在在中国杭州的断桥上。和我一起的是Helen和Matteo

Matteo: Hi

你们好

Kim: And probably we are the only foreigners on this bridge, so we might look like the tourists, but actually, we all three live in Hangzhou.

And talking about appearances, have you heard about “The White Monkey”?

我们大概是断桥上唯一的外国人，看起来很像游客，但事实上我们三个都住在杭州。谈到外表，你们听说过“白猴子”吗？

Matteo: Yeah yeah. I think I read something about it.

是的。我看到过一些关于这个的说法。

Kim: “The White Monkey” is something like when Chinese businesses hire a random foreigner on the street to enhance their status.

白猴子是中国商人为了提升形象而在街上随意雇佣的外国人

Matteo: Yeah, I don't like this idea honestly, when you take these white men or women, doesn't matter, but is there to do nothing, doesn't perform, doesn't sing, just getting money. I just think it overall looks bad to all of us as a foreigner here.

是的。坦白说我不喜欢这个想法。无论是男的还是女的，他们什么也不做，既不表演也不演唱，只是拿钱。这对我们外国人来说并不是一件好事。

Helen: Well, I don't really share your idea. It is that China is getting more and more international. They understand that in order to sell their goods they have got to open up to the global market and a Caucasian person provides that. We probably don't need to do that in Europe

because we got a wide range of different people coming from all over the world. We don't have an international presence in China and they need to engineer that so why not?

我不太赞同你的看法。中国正越来越国际化。他们知道要打开全球市场销售产品，借助白人形象是很有用的。也许在欧洲我们不需要这么做因为我们已经有来自全世界各种各样不同的人群。但在中国并没有国际形象，他们需要塑造一个，这有什么不对呢？

Matteo: Yeah but then you know like as you say: "We don't do that in Europe". If you want to be an open country, a globalized country, they should be more aware about cultural diversity and all these kind of issues. We don't take a Chinese and put there in Paris to say like: "Oh there is a Chinese person" nobody will care.

是的，但就像你说的，在欧洲我们不会这么做。如果中国想要成为一个开放和全球化的国家，就应该更注重文化的多样性以及相关的问题。我们是不会把一个中国人摆在巴黎的，没有人会在意。

Kim: I think it goes back since the Qing dynasty, where the emperors collected objects from the West and then they gave them as gifts to show their authority.

早在清朝时期，中国皇帝就从西方国家收集各种物品，然后送作礼物，这也是权力的象征

Matteo: I didn't know that.

这个我不知道

Helen: Well, if it is a good business ploy, if it sells good, it opens the world and people's mentality even if it is done artificially, if it works why not?

如果这个商业策略使得产品销量很好，能够打开全球市场并开放人们的心态，即使是人为刻意的，但结果有效，那为什么不用呢？

Matteo: We are more than money I think.

我觉得我们不只是赚钱的工具

Kim: There is also this analyst who says that on the one hand there is this authority but on the other hand it is like the cultural identity is

lacking confidence if you are hiring foreigners.

一位研究员说这个一方面是权利的象征，但另一方面雇佣外国人也表明这个文化缺乏自信

Matteo: I think I know something about that, I kinda agree it's like putting in a level of superiority or maybe even inferiority over one or the other culture.

关于这点我是有些了解的，我大致同意这个说法，一个文化在某种程度上优于或次于另一个文化

Kim: Anyway, we are walking now here as foreigners over the bridge and when you come to China it is relatively easy to get into contact with other foreigners. Because you just add yourself to some WeChat groups and you make lots of new contacts. Most of the people on WeChat I think are, mostly in general, I would say are teachers or students and therefore I would like to talk also a little bit about language. Because I noticed that they use a lot of "Hey guys" to address everybody. And at one point it frustrated me a little bit because I feel not included as a woman. And then when I tried to address this to make people aware of that I got enormous backlash in different groups not just in one. And also from women as from men, so from both sides.

好了，现在我们三个外国人正走在这个桥上。当你来到中国，和其他外国人取得联系是件相对容易的事情。因为你只要加入一些微信群就可以结交到很多新朋友。我觉得微信上的大多数外国人都是老师或者学生，因此我也想聊一下语言。我发现他们总是用“Hey guys”称呼所有人。这在某种程度上让我感到有点不舒服，因为我感到自己作为一名女性没有被包含在内。当我尝试让其他人意识到这个问题时遭到了很多人的强烈反对。不只是在某一个微信群，而是很多不同的。这些反对者男的和女的都有。

Matteo: I don't know. I don't think there is a problem or a serious problem with this kind of way to say like "guys". To me it is a generic term and then to address everybody with, well of course most people don't care and are not aware when they write a message. I don't think you should feel offended that they address you in such a way.

这个我不知道。我不觉得这种称呼方式是一个很严重的问题。对我来说这只是一种普通的打招呼方式。当然大多数人在发信息的时候并不在意也没有

意识到这点。我认为你没必要觉得他们这样称呼你是在冒犯你。

Helen: I really totally disagree with you. It is exclusive. It's totally excluding women. The term is predominantly in meaning for men and women in a sense are added to the group rather than at an equal level in the group. So maybe the people who don't even realize have probably even internalized this sense of hierarchy but I don't condone it at all. I think it is poor. You wouldn't find a term, which is based on women and including men. So why go along with a term which is based on men and including women?

我完全不同意你的说法。这种称呼是排他的，完全没有把女性包括在内。这个称呼主要是指男性，女性在这个群里只是附加的而没有平等的地位。也许那些接受并认同这种等级意义的人也没有意识到这点，但我是完全不能容忍的。我觉得这是很可悲的。没有一个词是主要称呼女性顺带包括男性的。那为什么要有一个词是主要称呼男性顺带包括女性的呢？

Matteo: I disagree. I think it's not based on men. Etymologically it's a neutral term as I said before. So it's good to use because it addresses everybody. Mixed group, female group and whatever. It's just a word. It's just a word.

我不同意。我不认为这个词是主要称呼男性的。从词源上来讲这是个中性词，就像我之前说的。大家喜欢用它是因为它可以称呼所有人。无论是男女都有的群，还是只有女性的群。这只是个词语而已。

Kim: I think everybody is free to use whatever word they want. I just wanted to create some awareness that not everybody feels included. So I as a woman don't feel addressed when somebody says "guys". And maybe gender free people also don't feel addressed.

我觉得每个人都有权使用任何自己想用的词。我只是想让大家意识到并不是所有人都感觉自己被包含在内了。当某些人说“guys”的时候，我作为一名女性就觉得没有被包含在内。也许无性人群也会有同样的感受。

Kim: But since we are still walking on the Broken Bridge in China I want to ask you if you heard of the "Lǎowài's crisis"? Lǎowài stands for outsider or foreigner and apparently every 3 years this can affect you. So and there are 4 stages of adaptation. The 1st stage is the honeymoon phase, everything is fine. Then the 2nd stage is the culture shock. Then the 3rd one is where you adjust. And then the 4th one

is where you...

既然我们还走在断桥，在中国。我想问问你们有没有听说过“老外危机”？“老外”是指外来人或者外国人，显然，每三年这个就会影响到你。这其中四个适应阶段。第一个是蜜月期，一切都是美好的。第二个阶段是文化冲击。第三个是调整期。第四个是...

Helen: Where you have adapted.

你已经适应了

Kim: So I wanted to ask you, could you imagine making China your new “home”?

所以我想问你们，你们会想象把中国变成你们的“新家”吗？

Matteo: No way. No way. I mean like it's fine for some years but then you think we are so different. I don't know, some examples like pollution, then I think spitting constantly all the time. Maybe also some food or the totally lacking of the concept of privacy you know they don't respect any cues. For me it is very stressful to live here. Fine for some years, but not for all my life.

不可能。我的意思是在这里生活几年是没问题的，但然后你就会觉得我们太不一样了。我不知道。比如说污染，还有一直随地吐痰。也许还有一些食物的差异，完全没有隐私的概念，不尊重别人的暗示。

Helen: Ah well I could imagine myself living here. I find people really friendly, the weather is good, I do find that my contribution at work and ideas at work are really appreciated and I have really a free platform to implement new ideas. They are always well received. I could see myself living here forever.

我能想象自己在这里生活。我觉得这里的人很友好，天气也很好，我对工作的贡献和想法都真的得到了认可，我能在这个自由的平台上实践新想法，这些想法也总能被接受。我可以想象自己一直在这里生活。

Kim: I also actually really like it here. I like that everything is so convenient, the transport is really good, you have your public bikes, you have QR codes so you can pay with WeChat or Alipay. You have Taobao your online shopping, you have the delivery service, which brings you, even 1 apple if you would want it. And above all I feel very safe. I think China is very safe. I have never felt unsafe here. So yeah.









我也很喜欢这里。这里的一切都很方便，交通很便利，你可以骑公共自行车，可以用微信或支付宝的二维码支付，可以在淘宝上网购，可以点外卖，甚至你只想买一个苹果吃。最重要的是我感到非常安全。我觉得中国非常安全。我在这里从来没有感到不安全过。

Matteo: Yeah maybe.

或许是吧

Helen: It's a bit an ambiguity of feelings it's like with the "Broken Bridge" really. The terminology "Broken Bridge" is as an oxymoron it's full of contradictions, but it means connection as well, and hopefully if we connect with people we will make it our home.

“断桥”给人的感觉有点歧义。“断桥”作为专有名词是一种矛盾修辞法，是非常自相矛盾的，桥本身也有连接的意思。希望我们能和这里的人建立起友好的关系，把这里变成我们的家。

Kim: I do understand also where the crisis could come. For example I am starting to slowly speak a little bit Chinese or I hope I don't know if I am understandable. But then I hear "Měiguórén" it's like American. And then I say: "Wǒ bùshì měiguó rén. Wǒ shì hélán rén.". So, I am not American I am Dutch. And then they point at my hair and say "Měiguórén Měiguórén". So they keep on saying that I am an American because I have blond hair. And I can imagine if really this is your home and you have mastered the language and people keep seeing you ... 我非常能理解危机发生的时候。比如当我开始慢慢说一点中文，我希望可以，但我不知道别人能否理解。但我听到别人说“美国人”。然后我说“我不是美国人。我是荷兰人。”，然后他们会说“是的，美国人，美国人。”。他们会一直说我是美国人因为我的头发是金黄色的。我可以想象如果这是你的家并且你也掌握了这里的语言...

Matteo: A bit difficult. Yeah would be very difficult.

有点难

Kim: Yes like really an outsider. And then also not even representing your own country but another country that's ...

是的，但这里的人始终把你当做外来者。甚至错把你当做另一个国家的人，而不是你自己的国家...

Matteo: Yeah you are just a Westerner.

是的，你只是一个西方人

Kim: ... that's tough.

那很不幸运

Matteo: Yeah overall we live in a bubble. A good bubble or a bad bubble who knows. Yeah, but still.

总的来说我们生活在一个泡沫里。不知道是好的还是不好的泡沫。但事实就是如此。

Kim: Thank you so much both of you for joining me on “The Broken Bridge”. As Helen said a nice symbol for connection, for crossing back and forth which makes a bridge possible, right? And also the bridge as symbol for process and development and yeah it's good to be here with you.

谢谢你们俩和我一起来到“断桥”。就像Helen说的那样这是连接的象征，像这样来回走着赋予了它桥的意义，对吗？桥也是前进和发展的象征。很高兴和你们到这里来。

Helen: Okay sounds great.

很不错

Matteo: Thank you.

谢谢

Kim: Bye bye.

再见











## **SHORT BIO:**

Kim Engelen is active as a professional artist for almost 20 years. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in “Painting and other Media” from the Netherlands and a Master of Fine arts degree in “Critical and Pedagogical Studies” from Sweden.

Engelen has been working and living as a contemporary artist in six countries.

## **ARTISTIC STATEMENT:**

Kim Engelen: “People (or the absence of them) play the central role in my work. I play with the individual as work in progress, with the focus on the intrinsic thinking world and the inner strength of the individual. In the (absence of) meeting with another through conscious reflection, development (or deterioration) can take place. More positively speaking or ideally, my works are about self–development, critical thinking and humanity.”

## **人物简介：**

Kim Engelen 作为一位职业艺术家一直活跃于艺术领域近20年。她拥有荷兰艺术 (绘画和其他媒体)学士学位 ,瑞典艺术硕士学位(批判与教育学研究)，她在六个国家工作和生活过。

## **艺术介绍：**

我的工作主要是以人为主（无论他们是否在场）。工作内容也是和作为个体的人打交道，聚焦于人自身的思考和个人的内在能量。这个过程可以发生在接触到另一个个体时（或者不接触），通过有意识的反思和发展（或者退化）。从积极或者理想的角度来讲，我的工作是关于自我提升、批评性思考和探讨人性。



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