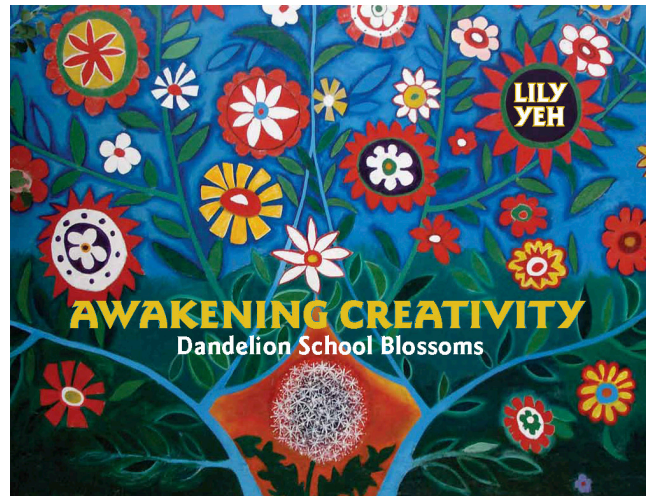


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subtitle	Dandelion School Blossoms
Author	Lily Yeh
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New Village Press to Release *Awakening Creativity: Dandelion School Blossoms*

International Artist Lily Yeh Revolutionizes Education and Uplifts Community through Art

Coming to bookstores May 17th is *Awakening Creativity: Dandelion School Blossoms*, the story of social activist Lily Yeh's inspiring metamorphosis of a run-down factory on the outskirts of Beijing into a vibrant school for children of migrant workers. With over 275 color photos and candid narrative, *Awakening Creativity* details the five-year process of Yeh's work at the Dandelion School in engaging hundreds of students, teachers, and volunteers in painting, mosaic, and sculpture projects. As the school's physical campus is transformed from depressing grey to brilliant color, the project proves to become central to the schools curriculum, building self-esteem, and inspiring students to take ownership and action in their environment, which ripples out to uplift the entire community.

Lily Yeh is an award-winning visual artist and urban designer, using art as a tool for community building and healing throughout the world. As the co-founder and former director of The Village of Arts and Humanities, Yeh spent over 20 years organizing communities in North Philadelphia through arts and revitalization projects, remodeling more than 200 vacant city lots into artistic green spaces.

The Dandelion School project brings Yeh to her native China, where, for the first time, she uses her community-building model to transform a school created specifically for the children of poor migrant workers, who otherwise receive no education. Uprooted from rural villages from 23 provinces around China, the students face a host of issues in dealing with their new urban setting. Many suffer the pain of separation from their loved ones at home, and feelings of being alienated and discriminated against in their new setting. *Awakening Creativity* outlines Yeh's mission to create a healing school environment, which stimulates learning, and inspires students to dream big and take action.

Yeh thoughtfully details her creative process and implementation of her vision and methodology; offering a comprehensive guide that can be used for similar work in schools or communities around the world. Yeh includes ideas for school-wide discussions, creative writing workshops, and team building exercises to assist students and teachers in designing and implementing their vision. An all-encompassing approach encourages students, teachers and volunteers to look into their personal life journey for inspiration, as the school becomes a literal mosaic of their expressions.

About the Author

Lily Yeh is revered as one of America's most innovative urban designers and social pioneers. In 2003 she founded Barefoot Artists, a nonprofit organization that is uplifting under-resourced communities around the world, including the United States, China, Rwanda, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Ghana, the Republic of Georgia, Ecuador, Haiti and others. In one of her most recent projects, the Rwanda Healing Village, Yeh has worked with hundreds of children and families to transform a grieving village into a place of beauty and joy.

Born in China, Yeh immigrated to the United States in the early 1960s to attend the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Fine Arts. After graduating, Yeh worked as a painter and professor at Philadelphia's University of the Arts. In 1989 Yeh co-founded the Village of Arts and Humanities, which has grown into a multifaceted non-profit that serves thousands of low-income people annually. Yeh's work has won her many prestigious awards including six honorary doctoral degrees. *Awakening Creativity* is Lily Yeh's first book, although dozens of books and articles have been written about her.

New Village Press

New Village Press is a public-benefit publisher specializing in works about grassroots community building, urban ecology, and community cultural development. The Press publishes progressive non-fiction that offers useful solutions to critical social, environmental, and economic challenges. It is a division of the nation non-profit organization, Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility.

Advance Praise for *Awakening Creativity*

Awakening Creativity is a radical manifesto for social change through art. And the art Lily Yeh is most interested in is the art of living. She is a builder, an organizer, an alchemist, and a healer who is drawn to the broken places on the planet . . . It is here in the open wounds of the world that she finds what is beautiful through the inspiration of those who live there . . . Follow her work and you will follow the path of transformation. Lily Yeh changed my life completely and if you read this book, your life as you know it will begin to change, as well, through the vibrancy of art in action called love.

—**Terry Tempest Williams** author, *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*

Awakening Creativity should be read by every educator, artist, activist, architect and parent, as it will change the way we understand education, parenting, healing and social change.

—**Nina Simons**, Co-founder and Co-CEO, Bioneers

An inspiration for anyone who cares about kids, beauty and reinventing education to ignite greater joy, expression and leadership. At once visionary and eminently useful and practical, Lily Yeh celebrates the profound capacity of art to seed and support human transformation.

—**Matthew Fox**, PhD, author, *Creativity* and *The A.W.E. Project*