

P E I L I M

The news that our friend and colleague -- Pei Lim -- has finally left us ... shadows our own lives in Toronto. We shall miss him.

For us, who stood beside Lim (or often just behind him) in challenging the politics of the day, confronting and pushing, marching and cheering the advances of gay and lesbian people of all ages and colours, his leadership remains strong.

Pei Lim directed, created, choreographed, danced, acted, performed and spoke frankly. He held nothing back: He appeared unstintingly in the documentaries of his friends; he proudly exposed his dancer's body in a coffee-table volume on sensuality; he designed artwork for charities and community events; he shared his insights and vented his fiery indignations; he fought for better health services; he joined in the many battles for dignity and for justice. Lim lived his life with a vivid and gentle audacity, and always remained true to his own ideals.

We were blessed to have known him -- and more blessed in the ways he will continue to touch so many more lives through his political and artistic legacy.

For us, who came to know Lim, his discipline and honesty, his loyalty and strength, his friendship remains vital.

In May of this year, Pei Lim wrote to a Toronto friend, "I appreciate you." He spoke simply but one felt rewarded.

And all of us in Toronto send our love and peace to the friends of Pei Lim everywhere, who say to him, "We appreciate you, Pei Lim," and can not help but add, "though we miss you too much."

In the same recent letter to his friend, Lim wrote:

"... I spend my day dreaming, painting, writing poetry, reading, listening to music, and quiet time with God ... Life has never been finer."

In the words of the Tao, our friend Pei Lim has achieved "the path to serenity" and "done his work and stepped back."

But even as he was stepping back, we somehow feel he must have been thinking of his next adventure. Still, we who love Pei Lim will never entirely let him go.

Paul Cheung * Wayson Choy * Richard Fung * Allan Li * Lloyd Wong
... and other friends from Gay Asians of Toronto.