

Duri Park Proposal

I was told that I used to sit on the ground and make scribbles on the ground or walls around the neighborhood ever since I was five years old. Through my growing interaction with the dirt in the ground, delivering the true meaning of dirt became my motive in painting. Although dirt can be perceived very minimally, I came to reflect that dirt can be foundation to life, and give reasons and values of all living things.

What inspires my work is trying to look at things that don't come to my sight at first. For instance, I can easily see main performers in a stage of a theater. However, I try to feel the atmosphere, performer's gestures, background surrounding the performers rather than looking at the main characters. The same applies when I take a painting brush in my hand. I believe that portraying beyond what you physically see is a powerful tool to explore the unknown. To me, there is constant movement and effort to maintain values of life in all living things.

This is why I draw forests.

Forest is part of Earth, the universe and foundation of life. As a part of nature that has life, it shares similar traits to humans – to live in harmony with others. My thoughts on the forest motivate many imaginative and pictorial expressions. Thus, my work reflects the image of forest and Earth which include the beginning and end of life through layers of color.

My work concept is attributed to valuing the reason and value of existence. Through this, we can come to appreciate the existence of little things and how they can lay foundation for future generations to come. Nothing comes in vain – even the little things have the power to sacrifice and create life.

For the past two decades, I have had more than 30 solo exhibitions of painting, including 9 international exhibitions in Paris, Taiwan, Osaka, Tokyo, Rome, San Francisco, and New York; more than 300 group exhibitions worldwide, including in Russia, Sweden, Austria, China, Japan, and Thailand. My works have been shown in the Kwangju International Biennale Special Section, Taiwan City Museum, Tainan Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Embassy of Korea in Rome, International Theatre Festivals, Kyeong-nam Art Museum in Korea, Busan Museum of Modern Art in Korea, and hundreds of group exhibitions, including at Yeosu Culture Expo and Andong Hahoe World Heritage Town Andog. Important commissions include Changwon MBC (Gyeaungnam Broadcasting Corporation) Murals, Lotte Department Store Murals, and the Muhak Company Murals in South Korea.

Currently, I am located in 345 East 104 street Art Studio in New York, NY, 10029.