



"I investigate the dynamics of how the self is shaped by changes in personal, social, and cultural environments."



Suyeon Na - www.aha-fineart.com

In my work, I associate the current events transpiring where I live with the images of my own mindscape, weaving my personal mythology into the art I create. In the process, I investigate the dynamics of how the self is shaped by changes in personal, social, and cultural environments. The images in my work often mirror those of mythology, fantasy, and folktales that are closely linked to our subconscious and animalistic instincts. The narratives I explore are left unexplained but are interlinked with literature, feminism, and personal experience.

As an immigrant from Korea to the U.S., some of my inspiration directly stems from Asian folklore, fairytales, and religious iconography, which heavily influenced my childhood. I examine a landscape of longing, displacement, and escapism to memories and the fantasy world. The influence of my

personal history is apparent in my work, through the quiet presentation of the issues of social and cultural adaptation, gender, love, and intimacy.

Meanwhile, my labor-intensive process of drawing, painting, cutting, pasting, photo manipulation, and layering blurs the boundary between traditional painting and collage techniques as well as digital methods. By manipulating various sources and images, I envision an enigmatic world filled with imagination and the fragments of reality, exploring the complex relationships between society, culture, and human nature.

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Korean-born and New York-based visual artist Suyeon Na investigates the fluidity of the self and the complexity of the world around her, by manipulating images sourced from newspaper, fashion magazines and patterns on the surface of fabrics we see every day. Na mines the imagery from fairytales, mythology, and Asian folklore which influenced her childhood, and combines them with the remnants of today's world. In her work, the crystalline collages made with fabric, paper and sequins are mingled with watercolor-painted, mythological figures, often females and animals. While surrounded by lavish colors and textures, these characters quietly deliver psychological narrative about the issues of social and cultural adaptation, gender, love and intimacy.

Na received a BFA from Seoul National University and a MFA from Pratt Institute. Her work has been widely exhibited at numerous venues in the U.S., Korea, Japan and India, including New York Foundation for the Arts, Context Art Miami, Scope New York, Chashama Gallery, the Brooklyn Public Central Library, Textile Arts Center and ISE Cultural Foundation in the U.S., the Seoul Arts Center and Uijeongbu Arts Center in Korea, the Studio Kura in Japan, and the Jawahar Kala Kendra Art Centre in India. Also she served as a juror and mentor for the NYFA Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program and has been awarded artist grants and studio spaces from the Vermont Studio Center, Chashama Visual Arts Studio, and the Contemporary Artists Center. Na is currently an artist in residence of the Chashama Visual Arts Program in Brooklyn, New York.

EDUCATION

M.F.A in Painting , Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, US

B.F.A in Korean painting, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

AWARDS, RESIDENCIES and GRANTS

2018 Percent for Art, Finalist for permanent public art commission

2016 Money for Women: Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, Finalist

2014 New York Foundation for the Arts(NYFA) Mentoring Program for Immigrant Artists

2013 Artist-in-Residence, Studio Kura, Fukuoka, Japan

2012 Artist Grant, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT

2010 Chashama Work Space Program, Brooklyn, NY

2009 Merit Grant, Contemporary Artists Center Residency, Troy, NY

Chashama North Residency, Pine Plains, NY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 Lucid Dream, Hutchins Gallery, Long Island University, Brookville, NY

2015 Scheherazade, Vitrina, New York, NY

2014 Drawing Outside the Lines, Brooklyn Public Central Library, Brooklyn, NY

2013 Life is Everywhere, Studio Kura, Fukuoka, Japan

2012 Drifting in the City, Chashama 303 Gallery, New York, NY

Counterpoint, LaMer Gallery, Seoul, Korea

2005 Playing Alice, Mc Gallery, Seoul, Korea

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 (Upcoming) Art on Paper Art Fair, New York, NY

Beautiful Mind, AHA Fine Art, New York, NY

2017 Asia Contemporary Art Show, Conrad Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Korean Art: Now and Then, Kang Contemporary, New York, NY

Minhwa & Modernism-Asia Week New York, Kang Contemporary, New York, NY

Aphrodisiac, AHA Fine Art, New York, NY

In Fragrante Delicto, Seven Minus Seven, St. Thomans, Virgin Island

2016 CONTEXT Art Miami, Miami, FL