

Artist Statement

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My artist-ego lives in the 'in-between space,' which is based on my autobiographical experiences of moving from Korea to America. The space is a psychological gap; on one side, I have been conditioned to become a 'proper' woman according to Confucian ideals that are expected of women in Korea while struggling, on the other side, to be more self-confident, independent, and assured in my new American homeland.

Having lived in two countries, I struggle to adjust to each different space and culture emotionally and physically. Each situation summons different roles, customs, and habits, which bring upon different mental challenges. In Korea, I felt social pressure for performing the traditional role of the feminized woman. In Asian cultures that have been heavily influenced by Confucianism, women are regarded as secondary to men, existing for their service. Within these constraints, I could not reveal my true self or my feelings to other people. After moving to America, I faced obstacles with various cultural expectations.

Through my experiences, I have become acutely aware of how my body has become a medium between the way I express myself and the world that encompasses me. I have decided to use my body in my art as a connector between my private thoughts and the public world. In all my work, the body is either trapped, under scrutiny, and on view; thus, implying that my body is a nexus for a direct exchange and interaction with the viewer. Not only do I wish to convey my struggles to the viewer but I also hope to experience resolution and relief through the use of my body in my external.

However in the latter work, I realize they could insinuate solutions contrast to previous work that I have triggered questions, not providing any answers. In phenomenology, human motion leads human emotion. By doing so, I encourage my audience to experience the situation that brings about their emotion by their motion such as touch or kiss in recent two works as action of affection.

To me, art is not merely meant to be decorative or beautiful; instead, art can be a question, an argument, a proposal, a resolution, and, ideally, a nirvana for the various problems that we encounter in our world. My work is not only meant to be aesthetic but also a discussion of philosophy. My mission is to be a socially-responsible artist that examines the arena of societal role, oppression by bigotry, mental emancipation, and immigrant situations. Through the body of work I have addressed, I have learned a great deal about myself and about social issues, and I think I have also matured and advanced as an artist. My greatest hope is my audience has also learned more about themselves and our society's issues and practice what they learn through my work.