



AP ART & DESIGN
2023-2024



Cover page artwork by Jacqueline Lee and Celine Yang

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The AP Art & Design exhibition is a culmination of the inquiry-based journey our talented students have embarked on this academic year. Through practice, experimentation, and revision, they have pushed themselves to create works that are inquisitive, introspective, and thought-provoking. The exhibit celebrates not just the final products, but also the journey of exploration and self-discovery that lies behind them.

The art displayed encompasses a diverse range of media including, but not limited to, painting, graphite, plaster, clay, wood, wire, and fibers. You will encounter pieces that challenge societal norms, evoke emotions, explore personal narratives, investigate Korean history, and more. The meaningful visual relationships among these materials, processes, and ideas showcase not only advanced technical skills but also unique perspectives and creative voices. Each artwork invites discussion and reflects the dedication invested by the artists. Let these creations spark conversations, ignite your own imagination, and celebrate the power of artistic expression.

Congratulations to all of our student artists on a successful exhibition.

Ms. Ireland and Mr. Desmond



AP DRAWING

ANIKA KUREBAYASHI

Bicultural Identity

My work draws inspiration from my personal experiences as a Japanese-Korean. Through exploring the trade-offs of having a bicultural background and its impact on my identity, I capture the essence of my unique background as a Japanese-Korean. I have often struggled with a sense of duality in my identity, navigating between two distinct cultural backgrounds. Not fitting into either community is an experience that has led me to question the meaning of culture, and how it can be both a unifying and dividing force. My pieces reflect the culture that remains with me and the parts I have lost, which I puzzle together by synthesizing Japanese and Korean elements of language, tradition, and techniques. Implementing traditional Japanese and Korean motifs, such as geometric patterns and vibrant textiles with classic art processes, I explore the opportunities and obstacles that stem from my cross-cultural identity.

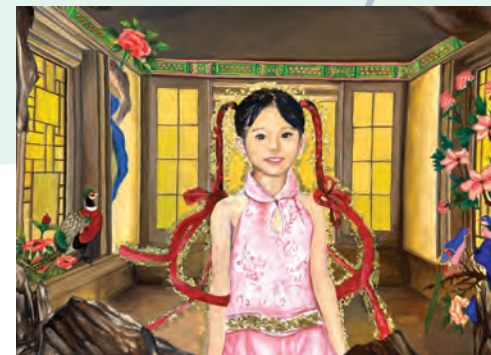




CELINE YANG

My Definition of Korean Identity

Growing up surrounded by a blend of cultural influences, I often found it challenging to pinpoint where my own cultural identity lies, inadvertently overlooking my Korean heritage. To showcase the cultural identity I've since discovered and embraced, my artworks redefine Korean identity and celebrate it in a way that embraces diversity and inclusivity. In illustrating my experience, I depict the ongoing evolution of my cultural identity, often marked by moments of uncertainty and connections to various cultures. Amidst navigating through influences from other Asian countries and American cultures, I found a deep resonance with my own Korean roots. Exploring traditional Korean mark-making techniques like the intricate patterns of dancheong and the vibrant imagery of minhwa folk art, I was able to strengthen my connection to my Korean heritage.

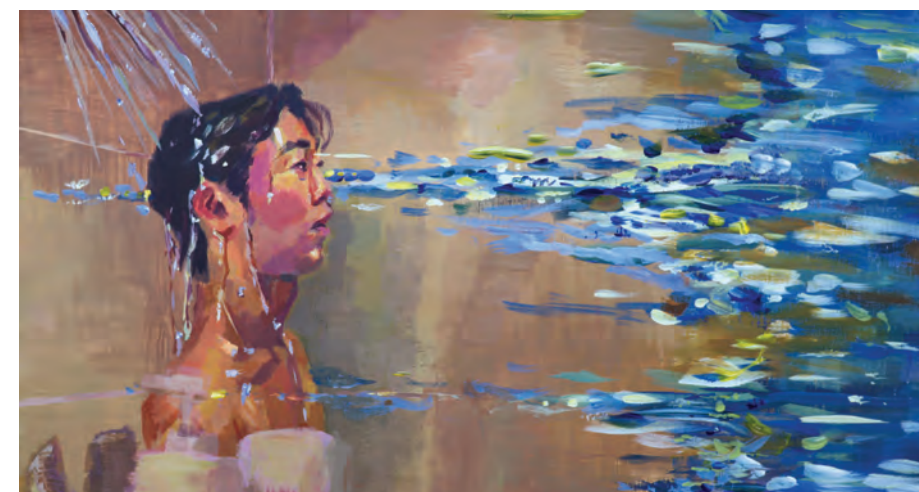




JIHWAN (ALEX) LEE

It Catches Up With You

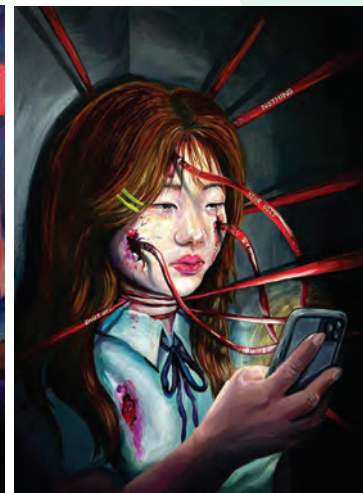
My portfolio explores why human beings—especially teenagers—often avoid emotionally opening up to others. I began by examining vulnerability from a broad perspective, considering how interactions and relationships influence self-expression. By doing so, I discovered how our ability to express ourselves affects how we accept our strong emotions. From these perspectives, my series of works explores the dynamic between external relationships and self-relationships, both crucial to our vulnerability. I use primary colors to represent the stripped layers of the individual, showing myself in a barebone state. I also paint in acrylic to convey texture and depth, as well as saturation.



JIMIN (JESSICA) PARK

Trauma Seen Through the Lens of a South Korean Teen-age Girl

While teenage years are often remembered for their joyful moments, they can also be marked by significant challenges. My art illuminates the trauma and its psychological impact on many adolescent girls in South Korea. School bullying, physical abuse, and sexual harassment are some examples of trauma I attempt to explore within these subjects. Through the bold contrasts of light and shadow, I create scenes that evoke feelings of both sympathy and fear, urging the audience to consider the silent suffering often hidden beneath the surface. This artistic exploration is sparked by a coming of age whereby innocence gives way to a nuanced understanding of the world and its sometimes harsh realities. Hence, I seek to recognize these silenced or unseen scars, reassuring teenage girls that they are not alone.

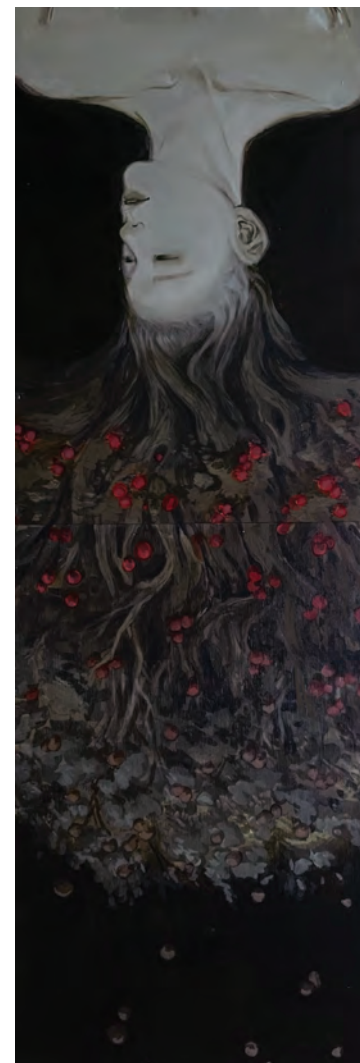


UEE JUNG

Separated Families: Displaced in Time

My art practice illustrates the stories of families separated during the Korean War and the lasting effects of mental and physical separation from loved ones. As a topic not commonly discussed in education or Korean history, I bring to light the ongoing effects of the war on the separated families in South Korea and how the emotions and memories from the past manifests in the 21st century.

As the last generation of Koreans who experienced the war slowly diminishes, I capture these families' stories on a personal level. Through interviews and texts published by individuals who were separated from their families, I forever immortalize their stories through works of art. Utilizing a combination of Korean traditional art styles such as flat rendering and muted, pastel colors, along with depictions of modern items and people, I evoke a sense of nostalgia and convey the passage of time.





JASMINE CHO

Recon-figure-ation

As I spend time with individuals with disabilities and listen to their stories, I find myself wondering why society tends to treat those with physical differences as inferior. My art consequently focuses on how the social construction of disability has created barriers for the physically disabled. I explore how these barriers shape their experiences, emphasizing that society itself is often the greatest obstacle for the disabled community. This investigation results in the human figure as well as assistive technology, such as wheelchairs and prosthetics, appearing often in my artworks. The repeated use of such imagery encourages the audience to become acquainted with physical differences. By using acrylic to portray subject matter realistically, I hope to prompt viewers to confront the realities experienced by those with socially challenged bodies, ultimately inspiring a collective journey towards a more inclusive and empathetic society.





AP 2D



DESIGN

AMY CHA

Unspoken Truths

My portfolio explores the period of Japanese Colonization in Korea (1910-1945), aiming to appreciate my cultural heritage with more sensitivity and understanding. Investigating this period is insightful, revealing uncomfortable truths about comfort women, forced labor, and independence movements. Through my work, I strive to highlight silenced or underrepresented narratives and to honor the resilience of the people of my country. I employ each artwork as a conversation starter, connecting memory, trauma, and triumph to deepen the connection with my roots and advocate for unspoken truths. My portfolio inspires reconciliation and healing by confronting uncomfortable history, and urging viewers to confront the past.

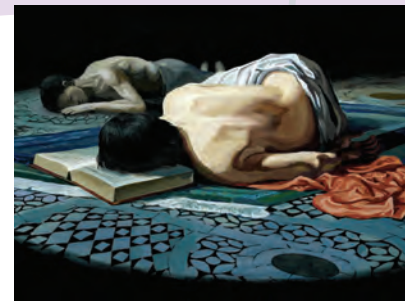




ANDREW RO

The Art of Isolation

Emotions surrounding loneliness deeply affect me, leading to a sense of disconnection from reality (derealization). My work illustrates my battles with loneliness and derealization, striving to highlight mental well-being. I explore my experiences with derealization by depicting isolation, emptiness, and alienation in my artwork. In doing so, I continuously reflect on my episodes of derealization and look for ways to illustrate and convey loneliness. Many of my artworks are influenced by Caravaggio's use of strong contrast to create a sense of drama, which is crucial for highlighting emotion throughout my artworks. By sharing my internal struggles, I aim to dispel the notion that mental illnesses are rare or shameful, urging others to examine their own social-emotional well-being.





BELLA YOUM

Interaction: On and Off

How does online interaction affect us in reality? The easiest and most common method of interaction is through our phones, but it is also what seems to cut off our communications with others.

Despite phones being a source of communication, it often seems to be a barrier in how we interact with people as well. My work questions if phones are tools of communication or the main reason why people have trouble interacting with each other.

I use photography and gouache in order to portray the issues in the most realistic way possible. Lines are also repeating visual qualities I use to show passing interactions. In all my works, phones are imagery I use to symbolise the digital world. The device is portrayed in multiple ways to show how it affects us in different circumstances, such as in one on one interaction or in public environments.





GRACE LEE

A Critique of Fast Fashion

My artwork focuses on how fast fashion has transformed our consumption patterns, and the consequences that have followed. In a time where microtrends dominate, the fashion industry has pressured consumers to continually purchase new, cheap clothes and revamp their closet every season. This has led to a flood of waste inundating the environment. My use of diverse media, such as acrylic and digital painting (Procreate), and textiles like denim representing common industry fabrics, all serve to shed light on these issues. It exposes the true picture, from the overflowing bags of “outdated” clothes to the vast amount of discarded fabrics polluting our oceans and the exploitation of workers behind the scenes. By painting the impact of fast fashion we pretend not to notice, I strive to provoke discussion of our unhealthy relationship with clothes.





JACQUELINE LEE

Exploring the Unconscious Mind

My series of artworks revolves around the surreal experiences we have when we dream. Dreams can range from terrifying nightmares to simply strange experiences. I create illustrations that feature scenes from the most peculiar dreams I've experienced. The investigation begins with the experience of nightmares, transitioning into more tranquil scenes where one feels trapped. I emphasize the eerie visual in my works by using various dream-like combinations of colors, as well as using the human face in absurd ways. Flowing lines are a recurring element in my work used to lead the viewer through the unpredictable essence of my surreal dreamscapes, inviting them to step into this fantastical realm.





MINJI KIM

The Odyssey of a Red-Haired Crane

In my series of artworks, I weave the themes of personal growth and confidence, crafting a chronological narrative that unfolds each chapter of my story. Throughout my work, I draw myself as a red-haired crane. This personification serves to represent my tendencies of avoiding reality and hiding behind a facade. Through vibrant contrast and color, I depict the uplifting and challenging moments in my life, reflecting how each experience shaped me. This exposition serves as a visual narrative of my personal development, resilience, and growing confidence. I hope that my portfolio instills hope and encourages others to also find strength in their own stories.



TERESA CHANG

The Cost of Efficiency

Growing up in South Korea's technology driven landscape, I witnessed a constant pursuit of efficiency. From the reconstruction of old architecture to advances made in our daily lives with food consumption or pets, people could only praise the nation for its rapid success as a competitor on the global stage of innovation. However, although these changes brought undeniable comfort and productivity, lurking beneath its hidden sheens, there was a disquieting emptiness.

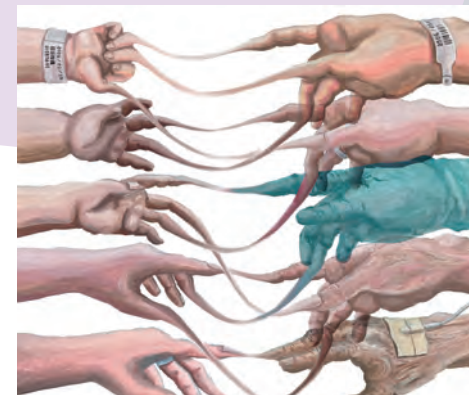
Rather than romanticizing the past or naively rejecting progress, my artworks serve to be compelling critiques through artistic intervention. Through the striking contrast of colors and shades, I excavate the forgotten, giving voice to the fading whispers of traditions, emotions, and experiences threatened by efficiency. It serves as a call to action, urging us to recognize, cherish, and celebrate the irreplaceable before it slips into oblivion.



YUJIN LEE

Unconditional Love and Family Memories

Love is a universal experience that can transcend generations. My body of work centers around this deeply relatable theme, exploring complex dynamics of love across diverse relationships. Though I started the investigation with a broad expression of love, I eventually narrowed my focus to intimate bonds between my own family members, specifically the relationship between my grandparents. Therefore, most of my works are inspired by old family photographs. In addition to the medium of traditional painting, I used Adobe Photoshop to experiment with techniques such as distortion, splitting, and pixelation. This conjunct method served as a visual connection between the figures, emphasizing the emotional ties between them. Ultimately, I present my works as if hung from a clothesline, illustrating the enduring nature of unconditional love through a visual timeline of affectionate relationships.



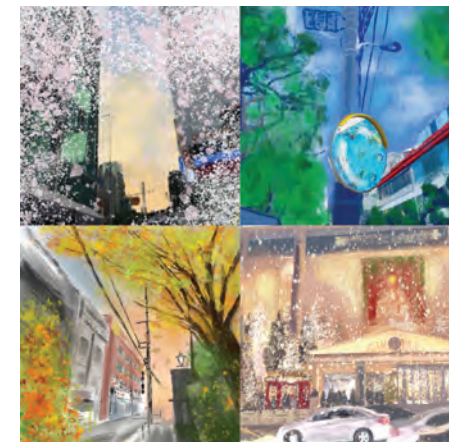
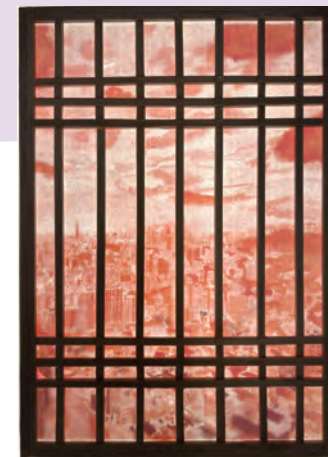


YUMIN HAN

Seoul's Temporal Palette: Cityscape

In my series of artworks, I explore the interplay of time within the cityscape, exploring how contrasting eras, rapid development, and seasonal changes manifest visually. The city becomes a living canvas. My portfolio presents diverse perspectives and emotions of Seoul through a palette of vibrant colors like pink and blue for street lights, textures, and opacities.

I juxtapose different periods of time, whether it is seasonal or ancient, to visually explore the complexity of temporal layers. Materials like Hanji paper and clocks directly reference time, while acrylic gel stone and clay connect the city's architecture to the urban environment. Seoul, rich in culture and history, inspires me to unravel emotional responses like nostalgia within the cityscape. My works capture unique contradictions, offering a visual exploration into the essence of human life within the evolving urban landscape.



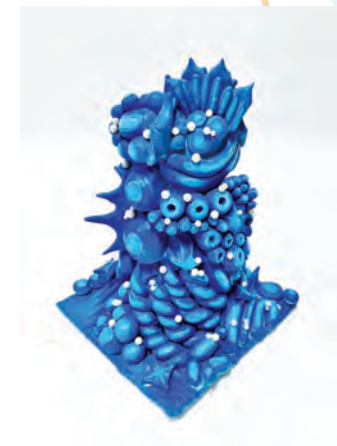


AP 3D DESIGN

ALEXIS CHOI

The World

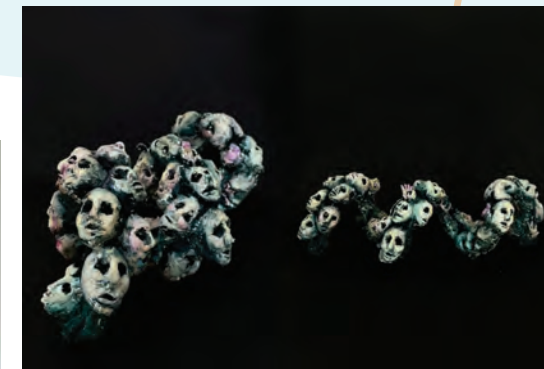
My art is influenced by the social interactions and connections that have shaped my life. I view these relationships as intricate systems, and my art explores the dynamics of human connectivity through metaphorical expressions linked to nature and the cosmos. These works span various media, from delicate hanging mobiles to intricate sculptures, each narrating the continuous flow and interaction within these systems. The use of air-dry clay and styrofoam highlights the importance of detail, emphasizing how even the smallest elements contribute to the formation of complex structures. This artistic journey not only reflects my curiosity about the fabric of social networks but also celebrates the profound interconnectedness of our existence. Through this exploration, I aim to reveal the intricate interplays between different systems, illustrating the complex, balanced, and beautiful nature of our interconnected world.



AMY CHA

Death: a personal conversation

My 3D portfolio explores the concept of death, seeking to understand the complex nature of this universal experience. After losing my father at a young age, I had a profound shift in my understanding of the once uncomfortable topic, allowing me to develop a mature perspective on mortality. My artworks reflect how grief has shaped my understanding of morality. By combining anatomical imagery with a deep color palette, I create a somber yet reflective story for the audience. I explore concepts related to death from various cultures, such as purgatory from the Bible and reliquary figures from the Fang people's culture (Africa). Ultimately, my work challenges the notion that death is an uncomfortable topic by revealing the collective experience and the opportunity for growth related to death.

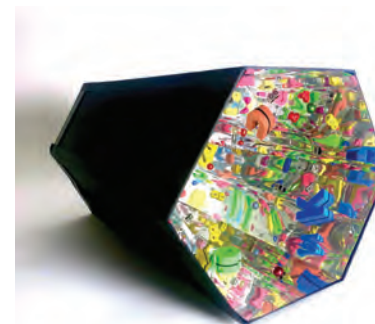


DAYEON HAN

Distorted Realities: The Media Kaleidoscope

My artwork uses the kaleidoscope as a metaphor for the distortion and fragmentation prevalent in today's media landscape, where false news and illusory social media content permeate the ever-shifting content. Like the myriad of colors and patterns that shift and change within a kaleidoscope's mirrored chamber, information in the media often undergoes a similar transformation, warped by biases, agendas, and sensationalism.

Reflective surfaces and colorful visual communication through text are reappearing themes and elements in my work. These elements symbolize how modern media twists and turns truth, creating a mosaic of conflicting narratives that shape our worldview. In a world where the line between fact and fiction blurs, navigating the 'media kaleidoscope' requires a discerning eye and a critical mind, lest we become lost in the illusion of a fractured truth.

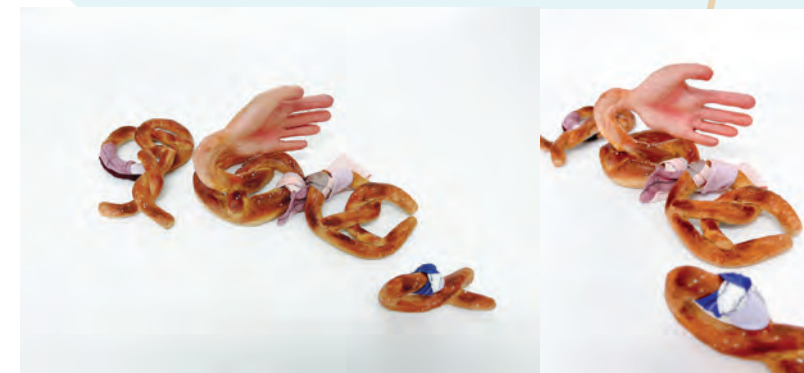
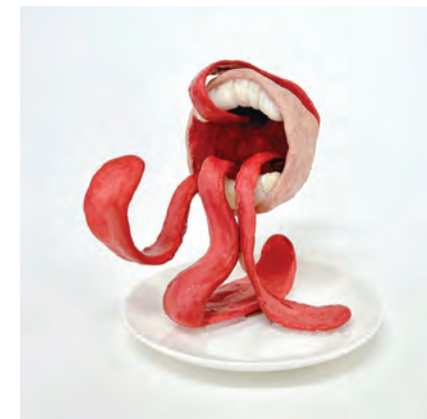
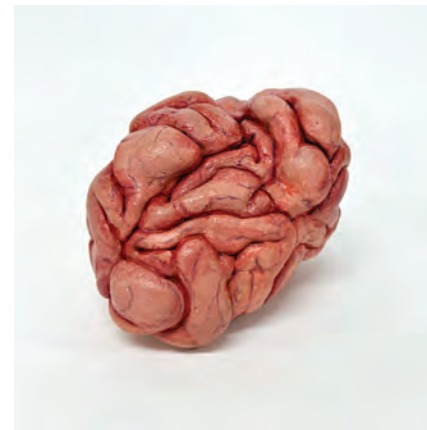




EUNJONG LEE

A Feast of Traits

I am interested in the qualities of humans that differentiate us from other animals or artificial intelligence. My works combine to form a single installation, with each piece exploring a different human trait. Starting with my own personal characteristics, I expand outward to investigate those more common to a wide range of people: social anxiety, overthinking, or gossip. Each piece merges food and the human body symbolizing how we consume and internalize such traits. The final installation invites the audience to choose foods they desire: this represents the process of self-reflection in which we discard unfavorable qualities while also incorporating new ones. The twist is that no work appears strictly appetizing or unappealing but a mix of the two to question whether there really is a “positive” or “negative” quality.



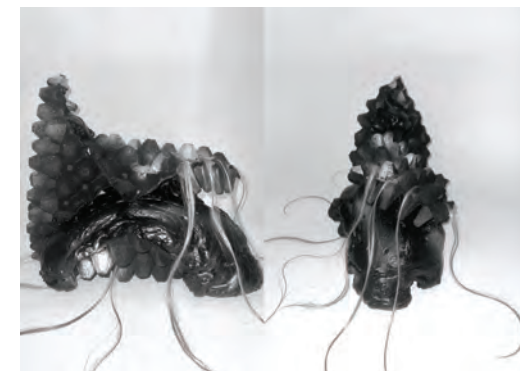
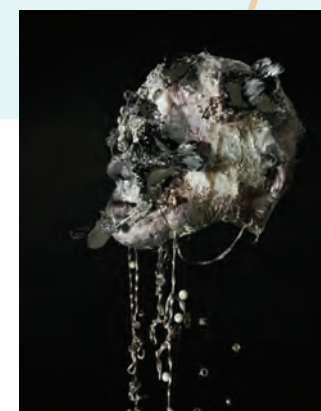


JACQUELINE LEE

Alien or Familiar?

My artistic practice revolves around the theme of extraterrestrial life, specifically the creation of imagined alien creatures. I focus on integrating organic features from the human body and nature with alien characteristics like grotesque texture. The blending of contrasting characteristics allows me to create works that seem uncanny to the eye through the juxtaposition of unconventional imagery.

I emphasize the eerie mood in my works through the selection of various materials. For example, hair serves a dual purpose, incorporating a human characteristic while also contributing to a surrealist appearance. The merging of human shape with alien texture, or alien shape with human texture, is what gives my portfolio a peculiar quality.

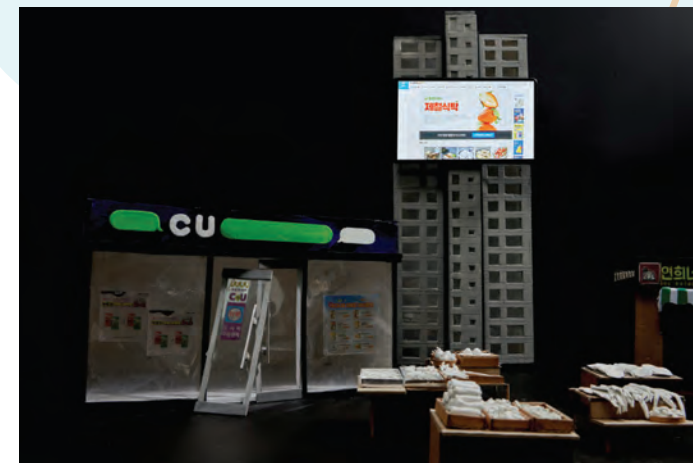




JIYEON LEE

Seoul's Urban Evolution Through Art

Juxtaposing old structures with contemporary scenes, my artwork tells a visual story about Seoul's remarkable transformation since the Joseon Dynasty. Over the past three decades, Seoul has undergone a remarkable urban transformation, evolving from a nation rooted in a struggling economy and subsistence agriculture to the modern marvel we see today. In my artwork, I draw inspiration from neighborhoods I enjoy visiting, such as Euljiro and Dongdaemun. Such places provide insight into the past, revealing "old" Korea through unique features like the distinctive font styles of street signs. By depicting traditional Korean infrastructure alongside towering modern buildings, my work bridges generations, the gap between Seoul's past and present. My work invites viewers on a nostalgic journey, collating yesterday with today.

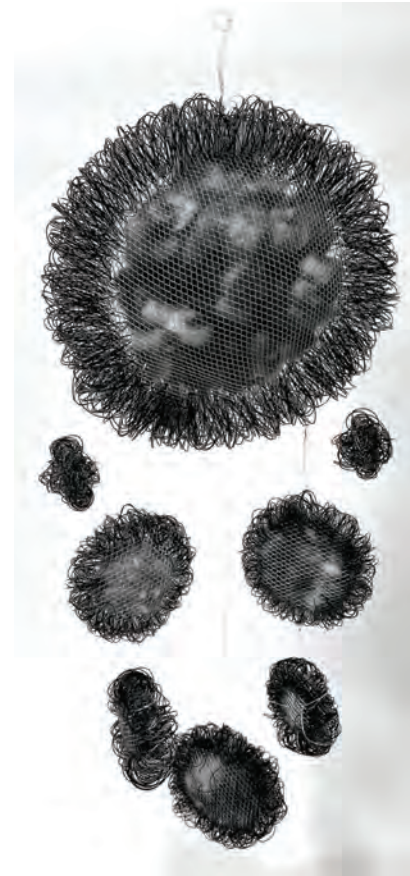




RIONA KIM

The Unconscious Mind We Dream

The moment reality crosses over and enters the stage of mystery is the state of unconsciousness, where dreams are birthed. After dreaming, I find myself compelled to investigate the unconscious mind and explore its depths. I express how an unanalyzed territory of unconsciousness appears in our dreams, especially highlighting the theme of entrapment and constriction within our dreamscapes. The freedom we strive for is not always met, making us feel emotionally limited in that realm. The use of wire has created the feeling of constricting one's ability to express emotional freedom in the unconscious mind. Throughout my investigation, I experiment with different types of wire, varying the thickness of it to show confinement and constriction.





SEOJIN PARK

A Culinary Exploration of Identity

Whether it's a quick fast food burger or a vast spread of home-cooked dishes, food has played a large role in my life through its contrasting cultures. From spending time with friends and family to connecting with my Korean heritage, I have found food as a way to learn more about my culture and ultimately my identity. My art explores my experience as a Korean who lived in the U.S. for most of my life, using food imagery as a medium. Through Korean and American cuisine, my art explores my dual identity. I use newspapers as my primary medium, incorporating both Korean and English text to further emphasize the cultural blend. By using contrasting images of American fast food and traditional Korean dishes, I convey the essence of both my Korean heritage and American upbringing, revealing the culinary influences that shaped who I am.

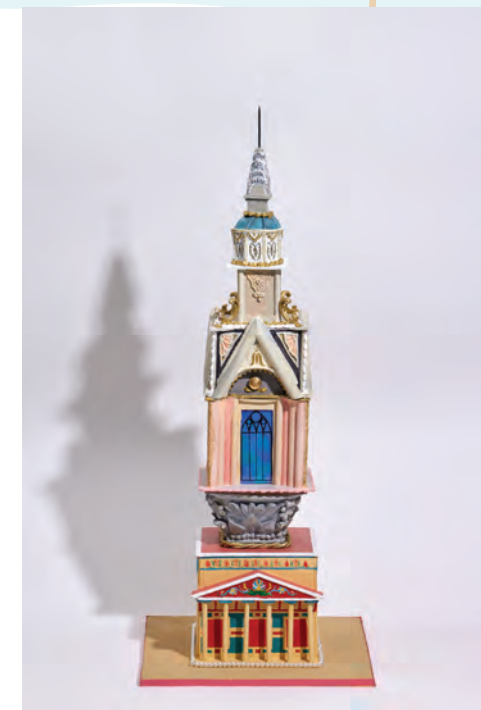




SOPHIA CHA

Chronicles

For my portfolio, I decided to look towards historical changes and developments specifically in the world of art. Art has changed throughout history due to changing tastes and preferences of communities and artists. I worked with both western and asian art as I was most familiar with them. I took inspiration from contemporary artists, such as Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Song Su-Nam and Yeessookyung, contemporary artists who also combined historical art movements with contemporary art, and created works that could visually represent the changes in history. I created works based on art forms such as doll making, ink wash and pottery. This flexible inquiry allowed me creative diverse exploration within my portfolio.





STELLA CHAE

The Digital World's Impact on the Physical World

In our tech-driven world, I'm fascinated by how digital advancements reshape our physical lives. My art explores the impact of the digital world, exploring issues like fading connection to nature, tech addiction, and the rise of AI. My work prompts viewers to think about how these changes affect our perspectives. Through my work, I spark thought-provoking conversations about these changes and their impact on our world. As technology continues to influence our relationship with society, I strive to illuminate its influence on our lives and foster awareness of both the digital and physical realities surrounding us.



YUJIN LEE

Cup of Memories

My work investigates how childhood memories and growth can be represented through symbolic objects. From a young age, my family collected teacups from all over the world, symbolizing our family heritage and memories. Therefore, I use teaware to represent my memories over time. I also use a tree to suggest different stages of growth. I am inspired by Meret Oppenheim's famous surrealist piece, *Object*. Similar to Oppenheim's work, I covered teacup to give it a double identity. Cotton and fabric represent the warmth of past memories, and I use meaningful materials such as pieces of my clothes and old bedsheets to highlight this theme. My inquiry further develops by expanding my symbolism to include family members. While I begin my investigation with two distinct metaphors, the teacup and the tree, I ultimately combine them by creating a literal family tree.





This catalog was made to accompany the AP Art Exhibition at
Seoul International School in South Korea in April of 2024.



Seoul International School