

## Statement

My work represents the landscape of my psyche and is a translation of my memories, experience, and my interpretations of reality. As someone who has shied away from being vulnerable to myself and others, painting has been a way for me to embrace the sensational and traumatic pleasure of fully feeling emotions that are powerful yet elusive of articulation. My work is simultaneously the art of alienation and loneliness and the contradictory desire for love. My emotions; especially those around love, are rarely seen but deeply felt.

The goal of my work is to reveal a deeper insight into who I am and what I am experiencing. My work is not esoteric, intellectual, political, or philosophical. It is as simple as a diary entry and a way to talk to myself.

Looking at my humorous yet demented dreams, past experiences/mistakes, coincidences and objects that make me smile as an entryway to my sensual and sacred unknown, I create landscapes that juxtapose the feminine form - naked and exposed - and an assemblage of symbols to represent the tension between my personal pain and my personal philosophy of living deliciously. Sometimes these landscapes are fueled by limerence and the things I wish I did, the things I wish I said, and the things I wish I were. It is also culled by the sadness and/or relief from living or not living deliciously. These psychedelic cocktails of nude figures and symbols explore my primal longing for love and the hunt for the intangible that makes humans feel whole. Is this my life's treasure or just a moment's pleasure? In my work, I try to treat these conversations I have with myself or what I like to think of as confabulations with my own ghosts (however embarrassing) with kindness, compassion, and humor. It is the reflection of my heart; a demi-monde - a place in the shadows, replete with hopeless romantics.

My works on paper and paintings are inspired by a diversity of cultural influences from childhood such as anime/manga comics and concepts that are taboo within the context of an immigrant family from Korea such as tattoos, graffiti, effusive expression of emotions, and overt sexuality and my more recent exploration into various religions and Buddhist-adjacent teachings from the 60's and 70's. Littered throughout these vignettes are song lyrics, slick lines I've read or heard, and poems written in Korean and English. My goals and hopes with my work is to embody my true self and untether myself from social contracts I feel beholden to so that I can truly live deliciously during this lifelong search for the coup de grâce that is love. Also to ask you, the viewer, to ask yourself if you also live deliciously.