

LEEAH JOO

Leeah Joo's meticulously painted brocades and silks frame her windows as quiet narratives are reflected on the glass pane. In her newer work, the fabrics take on a new role as their lustrous undulations transform into oceans and mountains to reveal of a series of Korean folktales. They are landscape and still life all at once, sprinkled with history, legends and personal tales to create a unique combination of old and new, East and West, fact and fiction. As the artist explains, it is a cultural exploration that had deceptively simple beginnings:

"I've been reading to my young children about Korean legends and folktales. In search of intriguing, seductive stories of mythical creatures to captivate the minds of small children, I turned to allegories that combine legends of heavenly creatures, beasts and humans testing their moral character.

As a mother raising children of mixed cultures in this complicated multicultural society, I am compelled to unearth the stories of the past, and present them in a new context, to instill connection, not to look back but to examine and redefine where you belong in the world. Likewise in my work, I utilize images and methods that may be ancient and familiar to tell a tale that is personal and new."



LEEAH JOO Pojeogi Procesa. Oil on Canvas 24 x 24 in. 2014

BACKGROUND AND EDUCATION

- 2006-07 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant
- 1996 MFA, Painting (Helen W. Winternitz Award), Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT
- 1994 BFA, Painting and Art History, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 "Ley Limes," University of Wyoming Art Museum, Lalamie, WY
"Archives of Korean Artists," AHL Foundation, New York, NY
- 2014 "Gatherings," Andrew Bae Gallery, Chicago
- 2013 Atrium Gallery, New London, CT
- 2012 Joachim Schumacher Gallery, Westover School, Middlebury, Connecticut
- 2011 "Dokkebi and Other Tales," Andrew Bae Gallery, Chicago
- 2009 Edinboro University, Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- 2009 Eastern Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee
- 2008 Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas
- 2007 "Circularity," Andrew Bae Gallery, Chicago

- 2006 "Contemporary Asian Art 2006," Art Center of Battle Creek, MI
Dennis Morgan Gallery, Kansas City
- 2005 "Window Tales," Andrew Bae Gallery, Chicago
"Vignettes," DePauw Univ., Greencastle, IN
- 2004 Dennis Morgan Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- 2003 Wichita Center for the Arts, Wichita, Kansas
Landscape Unlimited, Chicago Morgan Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- 2002 Embry Gallery, Kansas City, MO
Perceptual Experience: A Decade of Contemporary American Figure Drawing, Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA
Gross McCleaf Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2001 Wood Street Gallery, Chicago
- 2000 Michael Cross Gallery, Kansas City, MO
H&R Block Artspace, Kansas City, MO
Bellwether Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 1999 Wichita State University, Wichita, KS
Lamar University, Beaumont, TX
- 1998 Erector Gallery, New Haven, CT
Realism '98, Stage Gallery, Merrick, NY
- 1997 University of Hartford, Hartford, CT
- 1996 Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA
Silvermine Guild Arts Center, New Haven, CT