

Press Release

The Spiritual Garden:

HeeSook Kim Solo Exhibition

Exhibition Dates: September 5 - October 1, 2014

Opening Reception: Friday, September 5th from 5pm to 7pm

Curated by Sunny Sunhwa Shin

The Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery is pleased to unveil *The Spiritual Garden* exhibition featuring HeeSook Kim's recent paintings, prints, and installation, which contain part of nature, personal memories, and over crossed cultures. Like a garden; a planned space for the display, cultivation, and enjoyment of plants and other forms of nature, the gallery is a planned space for the display, sharing, and enjoyment of Kim's spiritual artwork series; Boston Installation (2014), Paradise in Between series (2014), My Own Garden series (2013-2014), Transformation series (2012-2013), Spiritual Medicine series (2005- 2006) and Twelve Gates series (2009). This exhibition is curated by Sunny Sunhwa Shin and is sponsored by Haverford College.

HeeSook Kim has been memorized by her experiences, such as her life as a youth in South Korea and her young life in New York, travels all over the world from Germany to the USA, and ordinary life in Philadelphia, she shares these experiences through her paintings. The mood turns to background color; impressive figures become pattern; and her imagination is the down flowing paint. Abstract and organic figures are mingled, featuring transferred old Chinese characters and symbolized pattern of figures such as butterflies, plants, flowers, and the laver? in her painting. Combining painting with print and collage techniques creates various layers, and crossing cultures from Asia to the West brings a mysterious outcome.

Kim is inspired from Mother Nature all over the world while she travels, as well as remedies and folk art from her home country. While learning and living in different cultures Kim's work has metamorphosed slowly. Kim uses various materials in the many layers of her painting just as Kim's life has much variety. Layers of Sumi ink, water based color, calligraphic brush strokes, strange marks, and texts in foreign languages make waxy surfaces and numerous mysterious layers, which is the main reason for this interest in her works.

Another distinguished character of Kim's artwork is the well balanced Yin and Yang. Over half of the negative space gives rise to a very delicately described image of an animal or plant in the middle of the paper. Kim engraves the image using the Western technique of etching on hand-made Korean paper. She repeatedly stamps the image after careful planning to get along with an unexpected dropping technique. Boston

installation, for example, contains a Western sense of color and an Eastern influence in the beauty of the outline.

HeeSook Kim received her BFA and MFA in Painting & Printmaking from Seoul National University in South Korea, and then went on to receive an MA in Printmaking from New York University in 1991. Kim has exhibited her paintings, prints and installations throughout the United States, South Korea, and internationally. Recently she completed an Artist Residency program at Youneun Museum of Arts in Seoul Korea. She has given many artist talks and lectures in South Korea and throughout the United States, and her work has been published and reviewed in many prestigious journals including ArtForum and New York Arts Magazine. In 2007 she was awarded the Library Fellow's Artist's Book Grant from the National Museum of Women In the Arts in Washington D.C. Currently she is an Assistant Professor of Printmaking at the Fine Arts Department of Haverford College.

<WALL TEXT I>

The Spiritual Garden

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*“My grandmother’s garden and affections,
it’s magical power over a little girl, the hope of healing.”*

We can live a more exciting life because we have four seasons; because something happened inexpertly; because we realize what we had after we lost it. Kim uses various materials in the many layers of her paintings, just as

Kim’s life has much variety. Layers of Sumi ink, water based color, calligraphic brush strokes, strange marks, and texts in foreign languages make waxy surfaces and numerous mysterious layers, which is the main reason for this interest in her works.

Welcome to **THE SPIRITUAL GARDEN** by HeeSook Kim.

<WALL TEXT II>

Yin & Yang

Paradise Between Series and New Installation

One of the distinguished characters of Kim's artwork is the well balanced Yin and Yang. The Paradise Between series of prints and two new installation works in this room show how the artist makes a blend of East and West in her art world.

There are two or three images of the Paradise Between series, which are well balanced by Yin and Yang. Over half of the negative space gives rise to a very delicately described image of an animal or plant in the middle of the paper. Kim engraves the image using the Western technique of etching on hand-made Korean paper. She repeatedly stamps the image after careful planning to get along with an unexpected dropping method.

Recently, Kim made various vivid colors of Beoseon, which is supposed to be a pure white color, and she prints a big butterfly in middle of each Beoseon which is unlike the traditional Korean women's method which puts little butterfly or flowers embroidery near the tiptoe. Kim quilts with Korean traditional moldy silk cloth, and then she uses the quilt as her canvas. Mixed methods and materials of Eastern and Western are hybrids made by the artist.