

Irene YK CHA



Spring is coming / Mixed Media on Canvas / 36 " X 60", 2022



Six Moons / Mixed Media on Canvas / 30" x 36", 2024



Between 2015-3 / Mixed Media on Plywood / 30" X 46" , 2015



Between 2015 / Mixed Media on Canvas / 36" x 60 " 2015



The Rock on the Desert / Mixed Media on canvas / 22" x 28 " 2024



Rain in the Desert/ Mixed Media on wood canvas 22" Diameter 2024

Artist Statement

My recent series of works, titled *The Between*, represents my view of the world.

For me, the word **Between** holds two meanings: Yin and Yang, the invisible and the visible. It refers to an immense yet unseen reality that, although not physically manifested, connects life's

stories—providing them with structure and meaning. I am deeply fascinated by the idea that every event, even when it seems coincidental, has a significant cause in our lives. Just as we perceive the presence of wind by watching tree branches sway, we can recognize an invisible reality through what is visible to us.

This concept aligns with the idea of ***Between the Lines***. Some phenomena do not physically exist yet appear to us as suggested images, such as the horizon. These various in-between phenomena must be part of a reality beyond our direct perception.

My works seek to express this notion of reality. The lines and shapes in my pieces do not merely depict reality; rather, they reveal it. This process of revelation is comparable to the frottage technique, where an artist uncovers hidden shapes by rubbing paper. In my practice, I search for meaningful lines and forms—sometimes by washing away sections of an already-painted canvas, and other times by deliberately leaving certain areas untouched.

The gaps, openings, and crevices created in this process—what I call ***Between***—come together to form harmony and meaning within the painting. Such expressions serve as a reflection of our existence in the world.

From the very beginning of my process, I have used resin to merge the tactile qualities of plastic with painting. Resin obscures the underlying layers and creates a fragmented brushstroke structure when painted over, leading to unexpected results—something I find deeply intriguing. By dripping resin onto the canvas, I achieve a new visual effect similar to dripping acrylic paint. However, unlike paint, resin does not simply land on the surface; instead, it interacts with the material in a way that feels almost like an unfamiliar form of plastic.

I dedicate significant effort to ensuring that abstract expressionist forms harmonize with the plastic-like qualities of resin. This process involves dripping resin, spraying it again, and then wiping it off to create dynamic textures. Ultimately, the expressive mode of my work stems from my desire for modern technology to integrate seamlessly into our lives without threatening nature—just as modern society can never fully return to its past state.

Irene YK Cha

Instagram: [ireneyk_cha_art](#) / facebook: Yookyung Cha

Website: <https://chaartspace.com/artist>

EDUCATION

1994 Master's Degree in Fine Art, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea

1990 Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea

1986 Graduated Seoul High School of Music and Art

EXPERIENCE

2020-2021 President of the Korean Artist's Society of Canada Association

2003-present Founder and Lecturer of the AFA (Adult Fine Art Group) in Toronto

2003-present Founder of Cha Art Space

Present Member of the Korean Artist's Society of Canada Association

Present Member of WAAC (Women's Art Association of Canada)

2009 -2010 Art columnist of 'We' Korean Canadian Magazine in Toronto
2003-2004 Lecturer of The Korea Times Daily Newspaper Academy in Toronto
2000-2003 Lecturer of the Adcor Art Institution in Toronto
1996-1999 Lecturer of the Fine Art in the KAFA (Korea Air-force Academy)

EXHIBITION

2008 **Toronto Art Expo**- Solo Exhibition (Metro Convention Centre, Toronto)
1997 **Solo Exhibition** (Kwanhoon Art Hall, Seoul Korea)

2025 **Beyond The Visible Shatto Gallery** Los Angeles CA USA
2024 **Together Show** QEPCCC Main Gallery Oakville
2023 **Small Gems** (Women's Art Association of Canada) Toronto
2023 **On the Road**, Ewha fine art Exhibition (Minkwon Center, MK Space, New Jersey) USA
2023 **Toronto Art Show** (Meridian Art Centre -Toronto)
2023 **The 60th Anniversary of Korea-Canada diplomatic relations** (Han, Soom Gyeol) Papermill Gallery
2023 **Together show 16 Korean-Canadian Artists** -Celebrates the 60th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and South Korea, QEPCCC Main Gallery Oakville
2022 **Nature to Abstraction** (Dignam Gallery – Toronto)
2022 **BC12 Exhibition** (Arche Gallery/ Seo Kyeong Gallery, Seoul, Korea)
2022 **Good Fan of Korean Art Exhibition** (ArtA Gallery Toronto)
2022 **TOAF 61st Toronto Outdoor Art Fair Online Exhibition**_ KASC Group
2015 -2022 **1st-4th Ewha NokMee Exhibition**_ May Breeze (Laird Gallery, Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, Dosaan Art Gallery Toronto)
2021 **Toronto Art Show gift Exhibition** (918 Bathurst Centre, Sunny Gallery)
2021 **Life Again Show** (Rainbow Gallery, Oakville)
2021 **NokMee Ewha** Online Gallery (Seoul, Korea)
2004-2022 **14th -31st Annual Exhibition of Korean Artist's Society of Canada** (Paper Mill Gallery, L'onyx Gallery, Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, Dosaan Art Gallery Toronto, Montreal, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seoul)
2015 **'Endless Blessing'** Four Artist Exhibition (Carrier Gallery Columbus Centre)
2010 **'Blossoming Washington Pear'** (Embassy of Republic of Korea Washington)
2009 **12 Artist Group Exhibition** (Cedar Ridge Gallery, Toronto)
2009 **Incheon Global Cities Arts Exchange Exhibition** (Incheon, Korea)
2008 **'Yard' Chicago Korean American Art Association Exhibition** (Space Gallery, Chicago) 2008 'The Color of Life'(Thoreau Macdonald House, Toronto)
2007 **New York Art Expo** (Javits Convention Center in Manhattan, New York)
Outside is winter (Arta Gallery, Toronto)
1999 **Invitation Group Art show** (Sun Gallery, Seoul, Korea)
1998 **"Chareem" Group Fine Art Exhibition** (Kwanhoon Art Hall, Seoul)
1996 **"Eseo " Group Fine Art Exhibition** (Fine Art Center - Korea Culture & Art Foundation of Modern Art, Seoul)
1991-1995 **"Jin Eye" Group Fine Art Exhibition**(Samjung Gallery, Kwanhoon Art Hall)
1992-1996 **" Seece" Group Fine Art Exhibition** (Dansung Gallery, Seoul) 1994 The **20th Seoul Contemporary Art Festival** (Fine Art Center - Korea Culture & Art The Foundation of Modern Art, Seoul)
1993 **Art Festival of Fine Artists** (Backsang Gallery, Seoul)

1993 *The Exhibition of Alumni of Seoul High School of Music and Art's 40th Anniversary* (Hangaram Museum, Seoul)

Public Collection

Korea Air Force Academy (KAFA)

The Catholic University of Korea, St. Vincent's Hospital