

## Artist Statement 2012 / Insook Hwang

Born and raised in South Korea, I earned an M.F.A. at the City College of New York in 1999. I returned to the United States in 2006 and made my home in New Haven, Connecticut. I've had ten solo exhibitions in both Korea and the U.S., and participated in two major International Contemporary Arts Exhibitions (Busan Biennale 2002 in Korea, Officina Asia 2004 in Italy), and received a 2010 Artist Fellowship Grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism.

I believe my role as an artist is to inspire and energize people with love and positive energy through my art. In my work, my interest is in creating a form that resembles a living organism by combining small, repeating images that assemble into a larger, more intriguing form. This approach employs some unique cloning and collage techniques, as well as a distinctive vocabulary. The special characteristics of these works lie in the repetitive, playful combinations of cartoon-like symbols and marks. When creating forms digitally, I use each small image like a living cell, replicating them with slight variations in their form.

The small and overlapping images and written text in my pieces, not easily decipherable from a distance, work like a cryptic code and serve as contemporary talismans wishing people well being, balance and happiness. In *Magic Bubbles* (2012), and *Jubilation* (2012), the abstract marks of two figures that appear to hold hands and dance together symbolize the DNA of harmony, unity and the joy of humankind. In the lenticulars, the word "love" is written in different languages that overlap each other in patterns like hidden codes.

The imaginary creatures created by combining multiple images of monitors, curved pipes and tubes symbolize our contemporary, internet-based society moving, affecting, and evolving itself. The net-like structure symbolizes the accumulated memories and experiences within the unconsciousness of human beings that lasts forever, their forms shifting and evolving in space.

*Magic Temple* is a mixed media installation composed of multiple drawing installations and canvas works, also containing animations and hanging sculptures. Making use of the gallery's architectural characteristics, each piece is designed to create a new space where it is installed, while transforming the gallery itself into an imaginative and invigorating environment. Inspired by the format of Eastern temples, I created my own guardians: hybrid tower structures that resemble multiple buildings merging into imaginary animal shapes. A spaceship-like net structure makes my temple dynamic and futuristic.

My installation welcomes viewers, incorporating them as animated abstract elements when they move around and between the drawings. *The Tower* is installed to create a room for people to stand in. When viewed from the outside it looks as if people are inside a three dimensional net sculpture. When viewed from the opposite corner of the space, a person standing next to or walking between Dino and Unicorn defines the depth of the space, making the scene surreal as if they were in the company of huge, imaginary animals.

Techniques used include lenticular prints, stenciling, airbrushing, sticker making, digital cutting (for stickers), photography, animation, painting, drawing, sewing and collage. The materials used are mylar, glitter film, printed paper, vinyl, tape, digital photo frames, acrylics, ink, and canvas.