

Fellowship Award (2015)

The Utah Division of Arts & Museums announced March 10, 2015, the award of a Fellowship for Visual Arts Excellence to Hyunmee Lee.



Visual Arts Excellence in Utah

Each year, two \$10,000 Fellowships are awarded to individual visual artists to acknowledge their artistic excellence and encourage their careers. Artists practicing in a variety of media such as painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, sculpture, craft, and new genres are eligible. Fellowship awards do not require matching funds. Applying artists must demonstrate professionalism in their practice through quality images and documentation. Artists must be Utah residents not enrolled in a degree- or certificate-granting program.

Major Visual Arts Fellowship Awarded to Artist Hyunmee Lee

Juror Cameron Martin, a visual artist from Brooklyn, New York, whose works have been shown internationally, said of his selection: “Hyunmee Lee’s work is predicated on the act of extemporaneous gesture as an evocation of affect. Influenced by Taoism and Buddhism, she is concerned with principles of immediacy, harmony, balance and connectedness.

Lee graduated Hongik University in 1985 having majored in painting. She moved to Australia where she spent six years and earned two post-graduate degrees, including her MFA at the Sydney College of Arts, University of Sydney. She returned to Korea for seven years, teaching at Hongik University and exhibiting in major art museums and galleries.

In 1997 Lee came to America; settled in Utah and joined the faculty at Utah Valley University in 2001. She had solo shows at Orem’s Woodbury Art Museum in 2002; at the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum in Logan in 2005; a show of large-scale works at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts in 2006. After receiving tenure at Utah Valley University, Lee retired in 2009 and concentrated more fully on her art. She is working with established galleries across the country.

Juror Cameron Martin Statement

After perusing the broad array of styles and approaches presented by the applicants for this year’s Utah Arts & Museums Visual Art Fellowship, I have chosen two recipients who come from distinct parts of the artistic spectrum. While it would be an exaggeration to suggest that their vastly divergent approaches and concerns are somehow representative of the diversity inherent to Utah’s visual art community, I do think their selection points to the range of dispositions from which one can produce potent artwork at this particular moment in time.

Hyunmee Lee's work is predicated on the act of extemporaneous gesture as an evocation of affect. Influenced by Taoism and Buddhism, she is concerned with principles of immediacy, harmony, balance and connectedness. Her painted compositions are at times playful and at others filled with pathos. The paintings adroitly situate themselves between multiple traditions of abstraction and work to conjure an emotional realm just outside the confines of language. Her assiduous practice has allowed her to produce work that embodies her intentions with supple dexterity.

I would like to thank the many talented artists who applied for the fellowship. It was a great privilege to have a view into your work and your lives, and to come to know something of a thriving community I had little knowledge of prior.