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## HYEYOUNG KIM BIO

Growing up in Korea, Hyeyoung devoted her youth to studying classical music; cello. After graduating from an art and music high school in Seoul, she attended the Konservatorium Der Stadt Wien in Vienna Austria for 3 years. In 1994, she moved to San Francisco and earned a BFA in Fine Art Photography from The Academy of Art. In 2001–2013, she lived in Honolulu, Hawaii, loving the ocean and surfing and being active making art and participating in exhibitions. Since 2013, she has been living in Oakland, CA and continues working as a visual artist.

## RUMINATIONS

### **What is Asian American art? Does such a thing exist?**

I can't define what Asian American art is on behalf of other people. However, in my case, I often realize that certain kinds of Asian-ness (philosophies and perspectives on life, wisdom, cultural experiences, and customs), which I had encountered growing up in an Asian-dominated environment are embedded in my works either by my own will or subconsciously.

In addition, as an Asian descendant living in this country minority, I ceaselessly question and reflect on my identity in order to feel less of a stranger in a strange place. And this contemplation on identity plays an important role in my art.

## Q&A

### **Has your identity as an artist shifted in any way during the pandemic? If so please explain. & How are artists (you personally) going to respond to these occurrences and communicate with viewers with optimism, or as a path forward with resilience and vision?**

To be honest, I had much difficulty as an artist during 2020. The pandemic compounded with the all turmoil of current events has left me with feelings of incompetence, lethargy, and resentment.

It has been an extremely frustrating period for me as an artist since I was unable to express myself nor create any new work despite having the time to do it during lockdown.

Eventually, I have adjusted my mindset and began to look at this period as a time of artistic incubation. I have been trying to face my feelings as honestly as possible and contemplate the events of this time in-depth in order to understand the core of the issues. Despite these attempts, there are times I still get overwhelmed by sorrow, anger, and frustration, especially when I see how we as a society keep repeating such negative and senseless behaviors, which I feel, will eventually come back and damage us further.

To truly connect with others through art again, I need to somehow resolve and train myself to overcome these debilitating feelings, which keep emerging whenever I encounter negativity in this society.