

Beyond... Press Release

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Contact Person: Grace Kim (shattogallery@gmail.com)

Opening receptions: April 9, 2022 1:00 – 5:00 PM

The calligraphic art of Kyungja Oh combines visual grace, linguistic discipline, and poetic emotion even as it embraces several artistic traditions simultaneously. In keeping with contemporary Asian calligraphic art and particularly that of Korea, she works in both the rectilinear modern “standard” Korean alphabet as well as the cursive Korean alphabet which is much more freeform and responsive to the hand and imaginative inflection of the individual artist/calligrapher. She also openly explores other more specialized calligraphic modes such as the hieroglyphic “gothic” style with its austere pictograms. All three written forms endow the soul of Oh’s current exhibition. Her art is perhaps most personally expressive in her cursive pieces with their very fluid brushwork that beautifully evoke flowing motion such as dancing, flying, or ascending.

Several of her works are, moreover, counterpointed with verses of poetry, some quotes from historical poets, others her own poetry composed specifically for her visual art. These poetic passages, deeply lyrical in tone, are meditations on birth, life, the flow of time, human mortality, death, and whatever may lie beyond our earthly existence. Among her most contemplative works, we find a poem reflecting on the fleetingness of our lives, and that after we are gone, what remains is the memory of our brief presence, like footprints in the snow.

Snow, of course, is itself fleeting and melts away with the change of the seasons. Art, however, outlasts even the snow and the inevitable change of the seasons, from year to year to year. Such heartfelt wisdom is the inspiration for Kyungja Oh’s visually lovely and emotionally poignant art.

by Howard N. Fox
Independent Curator
Los Angeles, April 2022

Exhibition Location: Shatto Gallery

3130 Wilshire Blvd #104, Los Angeles, CA 90010

(Free parking is available at the rear of the building. Entrance on Shatto PL)

Exhibition Duration: April 9 - May 7, 2022

Opening Reception: April 9, 2022 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 AM - 5 PM

Gallery phone: 213-277-1960

Gallery Website: shattogallery.com

Gallery email: shattogallery@gmail.com

Exhibition Artist: Kyungja Oh