

Janice Yang

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Bio

Janice Yang is a figurative painter and illustrator. She was originally born in Connecticut, but moved to South Korea at the age of four, and later returned to the U.S. at the age of sixteen. This cross-cultural experience has had an enormous impact on her life and work. She became interested in the human condition, the overlapping cultures and transformations that the world encounters. Her work combines symbolisms, narratives, and abstractions. Her paintings are the reflections of her life and the people that she engages with and they are often about issues including identity, immigration and multiculturalism.

Yang works in a variety of mediums that include oil, acrylic, watercolor, printmaking and digital media. After studying for three years at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA, Janice moved to Oregon and graduated from Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland in 2013. She has exhibited her work throughout Portland, and her work was selected “2012 Best in Show” and “2013 Second Place” at PNCA’s BFA Illustration Juried Show.

Artist Statement

My paintings are the reflections of my life and the people that I am engaged with. As a 1.5 generation Korean American, I have seen and experienced a lot of challenges that American immigrants often experience to find the sense of identity in our society. Throughout my own journey, I became interested in exploring the idea of identify in the context of people who are caught between two different cultures. Often the subjects in my paintings are children of immigrant families that encounter the cultural tensions of their previous culture and the American culture. I am interested in creating the sense of narrative by painting human figures and working with realism. I have areas that are rendered in detail, and areas that are less defined but are left with expressionistic brushstrokes. I often place the subjects in the setting of their everyday life, and juxtapose it with the inner feelings and daydreams they have in their minds as they are in search for identity. The symbolic objects and patterns in my paintings have multiple meanings that represent the bigger realities that are part of their day to day, and their dreams and hopes to find their identities.