

Artist's Statement

In the spirit of Surrealist automatism, I begin by creating spontaneous marks on paper or canvas; I often just brush over, splatter, and/or spill water-based pigments on it. Deliberations follow such accidents as I wait to observe and refine images, with which I compose visual narratives.

The stories that result are deeply personal, yet meant to be universally relatable. Replaying well-known characters from children's stories such as Pinocchio and the Little Mermaid, especially those seeking to transform their imperfect human selves into complete humanoids, I explore the world of human psychology: my lines and forms dramatize the emotional turbulences and complexities that often ensue from yearning for an idealized identity (either self-imposed or culturally forced-upon), chasing impossible dreams, facing foiled efforts, and confronting persistent traumas.

Kyujin Lee