



Noyes
Museum of Art
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

The Noyes Gallery at the Claridge

Education Guide

March 17 – June 24, 2018

Mina Cheon ***(aka Kim Il Soon)*** **Solo Exhibition**

Artist Talk:
TBA

Free Opening Reception:
TBA

The Noyes Museum is pleased to present a solo exhibition of work by Mina Cheon (PhD, MFA), aka "Kim Il Soon", a Korean-American new media artist, scholar, and educator. A faculty member at Maryland Institute College of Art, she divides her time between Baltimore, New York, and Seoul, South Korea. Her debut in the United States was with Ethan Cohen Fine Arts at Art Asia Miami in 2012. She is a faculty member at MICA, teaching in the departments of Foundation, Art History, Language, Literature, and Culture, and Interactive Media. She was also the founder and director of the summer study abroad program MICA Korea that was held each summer in Seoul, Korea between 2004-2007.



Lil' Kim, 2013-2014, acrylic on canvas

Cheon has exhibited her political pop art, known as "Polipop", internationally. Polipop draws inspiration from global media and popular culture and makes work that intersects politics and pop art in subversive yet provocative ways. In particular, the artwork focuses on geopolitical and contested spaces and political pop icons while responding to Asia's relationship with the Western world. Her work is expressed in diverse media such as video, installation, new media, and performance as well as traditional media such as paintings and sculptural objects.

Assuming different artistic pseudonyms over the last twenty years, she has been known as Minaliza1000 and M-1000. Her latest avatar and alter ego is Kim Il Soon, a North Korean artistic persona who is a social realist painter. Working on the theme of North Korea, her emphasis has been on North Korean women since 2004 when she visited the mystical Kumkangsan Mountain. She continues to produce what she calls DPRK POLIPOP, work that considers Korean unification and global peace.

From the artist:

“As a Korean, the idea of having two artistic identities, South Korean Mina Cheon and North Korean Kim Il Soon, is an obvious reflection on the country’s state of being divided. It makes all the sense in the world that if a country is split, so should the artist in practice. As a political pop artist, I’ve created artworks that responded to the global political climate, using pop imagery that circulates on the Internet, news, and entertainment as the source of my work. As South Korean new media artist Mina Cheon, the political pop art (Polipop) includes the perspective of a South Korean-American who travels between the East and West, bringing out things that usually go unnoticed or unsaid in media culture. As a North Korean social realist painter, Kim Il Soon lacks access to technology and adheres strictly to the propaganda painting style of North Korea.



Three Graces, 2013-2014, acrylic on canvas

“While the Korean peninsula may be demarcated by a 38th Parallel, the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the history and culture is nevertheless shared, the country is united by one country’s people and language. Moreover, Korea is ubiquitously tied by the never-ending heated debate on reunification and national identity, whether we are at war, armistice, trade, or peace. This is our business.

“The world may find our country (countries) amusing, the radically divided, globally useful as separated communism and capitalism states, fanatically obsessing over sports or military or pop culture. Our history is made by other countries and cultures, the Western influence has been severe, whether through China, Japan or America, it makes sense that other worlds and countries deem to hold a stake in what should remain – a country divided – and what shouldn’t happen – reunification. Who are those who dictate what should happen? Who are fit to lead the way towards unification, when cultural divides remain not only between South and North but also between East and West, and even between left and right politics.

“What does economy have to do with it? Probably everything. It benefits some for Korea to be separated; it benefits others for us to unite. Mostly, humanitarians would like to see Korean reunification for the purpose of global peace. We are those people, Kim Il Soon and Mina Cheon, and everyone else who supports the cause of this political pop art campaign which includes the slogans and ideas, “Eat Choco·Pie Together,” “Squirt Water Not Bullets,” and “Make Art Not Missiles.”

The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University: www.artsgarageac.com 609.626.3805
The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University: www.noyesmuseum.org 609.626.3420
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