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ARTIST STATEMENT. 1 JANUARY 2010

FOR: HANJI COLOR FIELD PAINTINGS

I was born in Columbus, Ohio but it was the four months each year at my family's cottage on the Maine coast that I received my most prominent life lessons. The house, pieced together over five generations, wraps around my great grandpa's fireplace. Family members made the dishes, rugs, lampshades, everything in the house. I realize now it is not a place I can own. I am simply a caretaker, resounding history, while hoping to contribute a small part for the future.

My life is like my art. Over the past 18 years I've moved 15 times. The memories of each place are forever present though the details often escape me. Recalling the textures and surfaces of each place is like scrolling through a collection of wallpaper samples. It is a vocabulary that forms the sentences of my stories while nurturing the desire to continually look, question, and want more.

Amidst my travels I have been studying the origins of color. The color ochre comes from rocks. Red is from the cochineal insect. A color may represent a time or place. It can unite or divide people and countries. When colors are paired, the combinations become potent enough to suggest the warmth of a holiday season or outline men waging war.

Hanji Color Field Paintings display traditional handmade Korean rice paper in new yet familiar ways. Originally used to cover windows of Korean homes (hanok), here, the paper becomes an entry point into another environment. Slightly above the painted panels lacquered surface one is drawn into a reflective field of color. Beneath the color, along the peripheral edges of the artists' papers, are decorative motifs describing new perspectives on landscapes.