

## Oonju Chun

Oonju Chun was born and raised in Busan, South Korea. She immigrated to the U.S. as a teenager. She received BFA from University of Utah where she studied under Douglas Snow, Paul Davis and Sam Wilson. She did not paint while she was raising her two children while living in a suburb of Washington D.C. At the age of 51, she returned to Salt Lake City and started to paint with full force.

Her work is part of the state of Utah's Permanent Collection and in numerous private collections throughout the U.S.. She received 2nd Place Juror's Award in Springville Museum Spring Salon in 2014, and Honorable Mention Award at Bountiful Davis Art Center's Statewide Competition in 2012. She did an artist residency at Maynard Dixon's home and studio in Mt. Carmel, Utah at the invitation of the Thunderbird Foundation in 2011. She has had numerous solo and group exhibitions and is represented by Phillips Gallery in Salt Lake City.

She now lives in Eden, Utah where she walks with her Malamute on the hillside behind her home, in which she has a studio where she paints and listens to her music.

### Artist Statement

I am not a conceptual painter but a spontaneous, reactionary painter. When I paint, it is a purely spontaneous visual response to lines, colors and composition. I am not thinking on a conceptual level and I love that. It is liberating and exhilarating. Quite simply put, this is art that is linear and without alternate construct, recognizing only itself, a mirror reflection, art that is for its own sake, purpose and utility. One can say it is less complicated, rather, quite simple in its essence. I cannot explain the meaning of my work because I do not impose any. I think that is why it works better at striking certain 'raw' emotions. The emotional response is direct and immediate. It goes from my eyes directly to my heart. It does not require mental interpretation. If a viewer feels the similar emotional sensibilities as I do, then, my paintings have spoken to them.

In the end, the works are not about the meaning or formal elements. All art forms evoke emotion and those emotions are subjective. They are subjective upon one's own life experiences, cultural experiences, visual experiences, emotional sensibilities, etc. My paintings become what each viewer gets out of it.

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