

Artist statement
written for her
website, 2005.
Based on
interviews with
Ms. Gowen.

Won-Hee Gowen

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*Active Member,
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Artist's Statement:

It has been said to me that true art evokes your emotions and challenges your intellect...

but whereas this is usually said in relation to the viewer I believe it applies equally to the artist. The creative process begins instinctively, emotionally, but from there one must then strive for technical precision; only when there is a balance of emotion and intellect have I succeeded in creating art. Further, in doing so, one must never be obvious: the brilliance of the technique should be subtle, elegant; art must never appear laboured. The visual artist should be like a star dancer or athlete: the ease with which they perform belies the difficulty of the endeavour and the hours of painstaking practice.

This fusion of disparate elements is central to who I am and what I create. I was born in Korea where communication is very subtle and complex but I have spent the last thirty years in Canada where people are generally open and straightforward: my work shouts out its colours but whispers its details. I live in the city yet feel a greater affinity to nature: I breathe in the wind and water and earth and exhale them onto the fabricated canvas. What I feel I think, what I think I paint: a raw explosion of colour and energy layered with thoughts and textured by words. Paintings that say, "Come closer. Peer into my soul. Talk to me." Won-Hee

The works of Won-Hee Gowen adorn offices and private homes in North America, Korea, and Europe. She has enjoyed a number of individual and group shows including several juried exhibitions with the Federation of Canadian Artists of which she is an active member. Won-Hee lives in Vancouver with her husband, lawyer and photographer Vincent Pigeon.