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Press Release

Semine Yang. The Next Wave

Online Exhibition

Live 4 April 2022



For over a decade, Semine Yang's practice has been shaped by an interest in the natural world and our inextricable place in its ecology. The artist's recent paintings are the product of a more instantaneously, process-based, and overall holistic approach.

In the monochromatic paintings *Doodle Waves II & III* and *Spiral*, the cyclicity of time is expressed gesturally. Inspired by the ebb and flow of a roiling ocean, and the force of energy that builds and crashes in waves, the artist seeks to track this motion in a single line, resulting in a series of hypnotic works that are more somber in tone, in part due to the colder months during which they were realized. The way that the seasons permeate and index Yang's paintings can also be seen in the contrasting estival landscapes *Rollercoaster I*, *Iles flottantes* and *Hot Breeze*. Working on a tablet, the artist is free to transcribe her physical surroundings and the sensorial associations they evoke in one fell swoop. These surreal topographies are charged with a certain levity and immediacy, transforming

them from the plane of pure representation to objects that channel the smells, tastes, and inner life of the artist from one particular point in time to another.

The theme of metamorphosis, repetition and difference, is particularly present in Yang's Dragonfly series, a meditation on light, color, weight, volume, and form – the fundamentals of painting. These entomologically inspired compositions likewise begin as digital drawings before they are translated back into the material and organic world, becoming a surface for the artist's associative and intuitive experimentations that are reflected in the titles of each work. Alongside paintings like *Constellation* or *Disco-ripple*, are a sub-series of 'K-Painting' dragonflies which jovially marry Korean and Occidental cultural references. Alluding to the South Korean musical genre inspired by successful 90's teen boy and girl-bands in the West, K-Pop has become an industry of its own, manufacturing successful musical groups almost formulaically. These dragonflies adopt anthropomorphic qualities and are rendered in primary colors, a nod to the Bauhaus and Abstract Expressionist schools, as well as the traditional Korean color spectrum *Obangsaek*, composed of white, black, red, blue, and yellow.

While it may seem ironic to address themes of biodiversity and the natural world from a digital starting point, for Yang, the ability to work quickly, itinerantly, and without producing waste reflects a greater ethos toward practicing a non-extractive and harmonious existence. As we find ourselves in an increasingly technologically dominated and virtually integrated world, Yang's work can be seen as a formal inquiry into the translation and hybridity of organic and inorganic textural nuances.

About the Artist

Semine Yang (b.1985, Seoul, Korea) lives and works in Dijon, France. She holds a BFA and MFA from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Art de Dijon, and a degree in Fine Art from the Seoul National University of Science and Technology. Her work will be included in the group exhibition *The Drawing Centre Show*, curated by Joe Bradley, Franck Gautherot, Seungduk Kim, and Tobias Pils at Le Consortium, Dijon (2022). She has held her solo exhibition 'L'étrange familier' at Octave Cowbell (Metz, 2019). Yang is the recipient of the 2018 Prix Jeune Talents Côte-d'Or.

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Semine Yang
Constellation, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
120 x 90 cm

Doodle Waves III, 2021
Oil on canvas
190 x 140 cm