

Rochelle Youk

My work presents as crafted objects, informed by my heritage as the American daughter of immigrants from Japan and Korea. Born and raised in Los Angeles, yet still deeply affected by my ancestors' experiences of colonialism and imperialism. Labor intensive paintings, drawings, and sculptures examine the history between Asia and the United States through the lens of cultural traditions, especially Korean folk crafts, like Chaekgeori/decorative painting, Changho/wooden window screens, Gat/woven Horsehair hats, Ceramics, traditional Hanok architecture, Hanbok/traditional clothing, etc.

Combining these specific historical processes with non-traditional materials like plexiglass, cigarettes, and fluorescent ink, encourages new perspectives, and opens a dialogue on how traditions are used to form identity, how they are exchanged and shared, and how they can become commodified.