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Lili Zhong

Art 202

Artist Statement

Appreciating beauty, the universe's natural essence, is an innate and indispensable human ability that helps us learn about the world. Everyone has their own definition, even on the degree to which beauty represents something abstract or realistic. It could mean elegance or romance, be from an audio or visual source, pertain to religious wisdom or even human value. Regardless, art always address beauty.

I think fine art is beautiful, but it should not just be visited in museums, but also bring happiness to the home. Homes are precious places deserving of beauty. My artistic purpose is to challenge traditional venues of art by beautifying and thematically unifying the home with art. I hope to help people see beauty in their own home.

Everything from math to cooking has rules. Artists break boundaries created by rules. I broke them by painting on a chair not a canvas. Making the chair my painting brought the art closer to me. Art in the home allows people to understand and use art, not just see it.

Many people, like me, enjoy picking rocks from pools and decorating with them. I created a wall with rocks and sand and invited my cousins to draw on it. I made wallpaper beside the wall and added fairytale characters inside the flowers. Creating meaning and art together in a shared, community experience is truly beautiful. Adding color to canvas adds color to life.

Art tethers our society, religion, and daily life to the universe. One of my pieces was a table in the shape of a body, ancient Chinese human on one side and tiger on the other. It was composed of two parts, head and body, and bum and legs, and could transform into a wall painting or sculpture. I hope the duality and multi-functionality of my table increases both the practicality of my home and the ability to be inspired within it.

Sometimes commonplace things need to be rearranged to remember their beauty. I created a picture named “Pine Flower,” made of pinecone petals. I re-imagined the pinecone form by sticking the petals to a canvas to make it look like the “flower” was ‘crawling’ out of a window. The material dominated people’s perception of the piece. The picture’s apparent randomness balanced realism and abstraction.

Beauty exists in the combination of things, which I express in my work. My view of beauty is like a net that has caught different meanings, concepts, and philosophies from both East and West hemispheres and combined them. Color and lines express these connections in my picture of many ropes. The ropes have two forms, two colors, and two shapes to represent my two cultures. Each are different, but woven the same. The carved wooden hand underneath represents the person controlling the ropes. The simple color and form of tension focus attention on the rope so the piece can be self-reflective.

Humans make and partake in meaning, and link up soul and body through the beauty that is everywhere.