



SUN YOUNG KANG

BORN

South Korea, 1977

WORKS

Philadelphia, PA

EDUCATION

Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, Korea, BFA in Korean Painting

University of the Arts Philadelphia, PA, MFA in BookArts/ Printmaking

MATERIALS

Paper

SUBJECT MATTER

Visualizing the invisibles (or non-visual ideas) in visual objects or structures to perceive the idea that our world is composed of antithetical ideas: Presence and Absence; Life and Death.

INSPIRATION

Personal memories or experiences. Eastern Asian culture, philosophy or history.

For more information:
www.sunyoungkang.com
www.stac.edu/amag

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

"Emptiness", or Yeo-Baek is the central aesthetic of Korean art. Yeo-Baek is the physical empty space in a painting that creates the balance of positive and negative space. Conceptually, this negative space stimulates the viewer's imagination about what is not there and invites them into the artwork.

TO TAKE AWAY

Think about the coexistence of antithetical ideas in your world, as well as the invisible parts of nature in addition to the visually perceivable side of the world. How can the structure of a book both reveal and conceal these notions? Also notice the handmade quality of the work, for many Kang has made everything from the paper to the binding.

HOW COULD THIS RELATE?

PHILOSOPHY

Yeo-Baek (Emptiness) has also been considered a philosophy in Korea relating to Emptiness in Buddhism, the balance of Yin and Yang, Taoism, and the idea of a contemplative life. It is almost impossible to understand Korean art and traditional culture without knowing Yeo-Baek.

HISTORY

As a Korean artist, Kang is influenced by her culture even if the work does not directly address it. How can one demonstrate one's history abstractly? Does her upbringing reflect itself in her choice of materials, working method or subject matter?

MATERIAL SCIENCE

Kang makes her own paper to use in many of these books. How could the source paper, water and other materials affect the aesthetic properties of that paper?



AZARIAN MCCULLOUGH ART GALLERY