

**For immediate release**

**Art Space DA:MDAA presents the first New York solo exhibition of  
MINSUN JI, a Korean *Minhwa* artist at K&P Gallery in Chelsea, NYC**

Exhibition Title           **Linked Views 감통 (感通)**  
Opening reception       June 15, 6-8 PM  
Exhibition dates         June 15-21, 2017  
Venue                      K&P Gallery  
                                547 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street (#518), New York, NY 10001  
Press enquires           [joanne.lee@daamdaa.com](mailto:joanne.lee@daamdaa.com)  
                                +1 203 707 9965 New York / +82 10 4640 3828 Seoul  
                                [kandpgallery@gmail.com](mailto:kandpgallery@gmail.com)   +1 617 512 2944 New York



**Images**

Fidelity in the Eye of Tiger 45x57cm

Superman 57x57cm

Rise from obscurity to fame in the Eye of Tiger 70x70cm

Rise from obscurity to fame 55x55cm

Longevity and luck 50x60cm

Fidelity 45x57cm (from upper left, clockwise)

Pigments, Chinese ink, Korean mulberry paper 2016-2017

**June 14, 2017** Art Space DA:MDAA is pleased to present Minsun Ji's first solo New York exhibition at K&P Gallery in New York. Minsun Ji, a *Minhwa* artist, has also curated her own solo exhibition. She turns the entire gallery space into a single piece of art filled with motifs and symbols of blessing, aspiration and wealth by the eyes of the tiger.

*Minhwa* literally refers to a Korean folk painting based on the aspiration to the blessed life such as longevity, fame, and wealth. The painting is composed of coded topics and objects. The exhibition 'Linked Views' focuses on interpreting the symbols 'blessing' and 'aspiration' by eyes of the tiger, and conveying those meanings to viewers. *Minhwa features subjects such as* tiger, phoenix, bat, dragon, fish, pomegranate, duck, lotus, crane and so forth. Each of those subjects conveys success, birth, longevity, peace, wealth and achievement, etc. That is why *Minhwa* is also referred to as a reading picture in a sense that viewers decode meanings of subjects and symbols contained in the paintings. The general theme of the genre would be the 'blessing' to people.

The artist has selected a few of the most frequently used symbols: tiger, dragon, bat, fish, and duck throughout the Korean art history. They are selected, adapted, reinterpreted, and newly created in different perspectives from the original. Tiger, especially the main icon of this exhibition, is believed to prevent us from calamities and invite the blessing as a patron saint in Korea. She borrows the tiger's view as the reinterpreting point, letting the imagination run wild.

The hope of living a blessed life is not only of Korea, but also a desire of all around the world. By depicting and sharing this universal wish through art, the artist believes the viewer and the other viewer, or the viewer and herself can communicate and form a relationship despite the different languages we speak. As you follow the eye of the tiger one by one, the whole gallery space turns into a single piece of art. Minsun Ji wishes that the viewers are immersed in this body of works full of blessing.

Last but not the least; the viewers will also be fascinated realizing the combination of the aesthetics of the folk paintings - neglected three dimensional and atmospheric perspectives – and the contained meanings.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Minsun Ji, a South Korea-born artist, studied Visual Design at college. She turned a professional *Minhwa* artist in her late 20s. She currently teaches the painting at an extension program, Kaywon Art College in South Korea. It is not a co-incidence that the artist has swiftly adapted to a traditional style of *Minhwa* and altered it in her own due to her educational background. A majority of *Minhwa* artists in Korea still adhere to the traditional motifs and subjects that date back to the 16th – 17th centuries. But, Minsun Ji tries to feature motifs and subjects that are universal thus more appealing to people worldwide. Wonder Woman, Batman and Superman also appear in her recent works as a result of her audacious and creative choice of subjects. It is because the Super Heroes are also regarded as patrons today in the same way as tigers and dragons used to in the past. Her *Minhwa* paintings can convey blessing and good luck to people regardless of their nationality, age, and gender.

## **ABOUT ART SPACE DAAMDAA**

Art Space DA:MDAA is devoted to representing cross-cultural arts and emerging to mid-career artists from worldwide. For further information, please contact Joanne J. Lee, a director of the gallery at [joanne.lee@daamdaa.com](mailto:joanne.lee@daamdaa.com).

38-38 Gil, Dongkyo-ro, Yeonnam-dong, Mapo-Gu, Seoul, South Korea  
46 Mianus View Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06807, USA  
Contact: [joanne.lee@daamdaa.com](mailto:joanne.lee@daamdaa.com) | +1 203 707 9965(US), +82 10 4640 3828 (Korea)

## **ABOUT K&P GALLERY**

Relocated in New York City in 2015 since its establishment in 1986 in South Korea, K&P Gallery strives to present the work of mid-career artists that inspire, excite, and intrigue increasingly diverse clientele from worldwide.

Chelsea: 547 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10001 (#518)  
Contact: [kandpgallery@gmail.com](mailto:kandpgallery@gmail.com) | [www.kandpgallery.com](http://www.kandpgallery.com)

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## **PRESS ENQUIRIES**

Art Space DA:MDAA | Tel. + 1 203 707 9965, + 82 10 4640 3828 | [www.daamdaa.com](http://www.daamdaa.com)  
Contact: Joanne J. Lee, [joanne.lee@daamdaa.com](mailto:joanne.lee@daamdaa.com) or [exhibition@daamdaa.com](mailto:exhibition@daamdaa.com)

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