

EGG & DART

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986 River Rd. Edgewater, NJ 07020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Illuminating Wishes"
Minhwa Painting: A Traditional Korean Art Form

Exhibition Dates: July 26 - October 24, 2008

Opening Reception: July 26, 6-8pm

Min Hong Choi
Kyung Soon Hong
Myung Won Hong
So Young Im
Haeng Ja Kim

Egg & Dart is pleased to present the exhibition "*Illuminating Wishes*" - *Minhwa Painting: A Traditional Korean Art Form*. *This group show* features five women artists who have developed a highly personal aesthetic with an ancient technique. These original works on paper depict a variety of subjects including mythical creatures, nature, and shamanistic iconography - altogether pursuing themes of beauty, vitality, fantasy, and folklore. Their ethereal style captures a resplendent landscape of highly imaginative dreamlike worlds.

Minhwa is characterized by the use of bright colors and symbols of nature such as peaches, tigers, cranes, and mountains. These symbols are endowed with deep meaning and reflect valued concepts in Korean culture. Early examples of Minhwa are found on the walls of the ancient Koguryo royal tombs, underscoring its long and distinguished history. The content of Minhwa was based in shamanism and was seen as a way of communicating to the spirit world. Traditionally painted on household surfaces such as closet doors and folding screens, this art form began as a visual manifestation of one's hopes for a brighter future. Designs often expressed a wish for good luck or longevity. Minhwa is widely considered folk art, due to its popular decorative use in Korea. This exhibit aims to revise conventional notions of Minhwa by demonstrating its diversity and complexity as a "genre with its own distinctive aesthetic qualities and historical significance."

"*Illuminating Wishes*" features Northern New Jersey resident artists who, under the direction and teaching of Duk Hee Song (Master Teacher and President of the Song Traditional Fine Art Association), are dedicated to the Minhwa form. These women take pride in preserving a time-honored Korean painting style as well as furthering its dynamic development as a fine art.

This will be Egg & Dart's first formally curated show since opening in May 2008.

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Hours:
Wed - Fri (11-6)
Sat, Mon (11-5)
Tue (9-1pm)