

Moving Forward II

53.5 x 52 inches

Mixed Media

Price available upon request



Hisae Yale

Bio

Hisae Kimura Yale was born in Hiroshima, Japan. She received her BA in printmaking from Tama Art University in Tokyo, Japan and her MFA from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville where she studied printmaking and sculpture. She was selected as an Artist in Residence-Mino Paper Art Village where she researched Japanese traditional paper making and created new works using these techniques. She has been a member artist at the Fayetteville Underground in Fayetteville. She has exhibited her artwork both in Japan and the United States.

Artist Statement

This work represents people trying to move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic through the images of bird feathers. Birds symbolize different meanings related to culture, religion and region. One common symbolism of birds is that of freedom, such as the freedom from gravity, physical and mental constrictions.

Since the pandemic started, it has restricted people's freedoms and daily lives. People try to avoid physical contact and keep distance from each other to avoid spreading the virus. Although there are no actual birds in my artwork, the images of bird feathers are used to convey people's effort to move forward from the pandemic. The viewer can imagine how the feathers were left behind without seeing images of actual birds. Similarly, we are left to imagine how others have been affected by the pandemic without seeing the details of one another's personal experiences.

The work includes white colored feathers that I painted to represent individual people's lives. The black colored feathers were copied from real feathers using a copy machine to represent information presented by the media about the lives and struggles of others during the pandemic. There continues to be a significant amount of information related to COVID-19 in news and social media. There has also been a large amount of uncertainty, fear and many unknowns throughout the pandemic as information and situations continue to change. The reason for dividing the artwork into smaller pieces is to show the separation that has been a part of the pandemic for many individuals.

Although we cannot predict how long the pandemic will last, I would like to believe that through the combined effort of each individual we can begin to move forward together. The birds in people's imagination can help fly us to a brighter future.