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"Mr. Lee"

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My paintings are a territory where I express, fight, question and discover what is happening around me. Each element in them struggles with others. They reveal a world almost entirely comprised by conflict and confusion. My goal is to build a connection between my work and myself, to communicate with viewers and to question myself and my audience by representing my personal experience in ways that are revealing and new to me. Somehow, this also offers viewers the opportunity to rethink their relationships to the world around them.

Confusion inspires me. Issues I cannot understand and problems I cannot solve are the heart and soul of my world. I believe that there are answers and new questions in my works, both of which lead to deeper understand.

As a person, I try to be uncomplicated and sincere while observing the chaos around me. In my work, I represent it as directly and clearly as I can, compressing it into visual form. Through the combination of simple symbols, colors and fragments of text, I create situations in which it is possible for me to reflect upon some of the most important things that have happened to me. I invite viewer to do something similar. In the process of exploring the confusion, accidents sometimes lead to beautiful results. It is part of my work. I want to be authentic, not like a fake gentleman in a cheap suit by a phony luxury brand.

To arrive at harmony is part of finding the way out of my confusion. This

is the instinct to blend and try to survive in those conflict and confusion.

When I stand back from a piece, blurry lines form in my mind, questions linking to possible answers.

A kind of doubleness is present in my work. My paintings simultaneously address the problems of two different systems, which could be illusion and reality, western and eastern culture, birth and death, etc. But, those two work in concert, for giving a unique way to look at what is happening all around us.

The works' doubleness invites viewers to look for layers atop layers.

Viewers will track from the first layer to background, and then in reverse.

In each layer, something different transpires. The totality provides something different again. Struggle, conflict, harmony and connection are all present. This presents the opportunity for viewers to understand their possible connection to people, finding common problems we all might share.

As an artist, my goal is not to pretend to be a thoughtful man who has a great philosophy. I am just trying not to take myself too seriously, while, at the same time, trying to figure out some very serious things.

