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# Art You Alright

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### **Statement**

My works are mirrors that reflect my life, my thoughts, my heart and my soul.

Since my works are about my experience and reactions toward my life, cultural differences between east and west culture have a tremendous impact on my works. Moving to America was a turning point to me these years. The surrounding is totally different and everything is new to me. I found that I'm not only learning art but also learning how to live in a foreign place. Once my life was occupied by these unknown things, my works manifest every emotions I have in every moment. This is not me trying to unify art and life, It is them integrating with each other spontaneously. Somehow I think that art is life, and life is art.

To live happily is my personal philosophy, so the sense of humor is an important element which I pursue in my works. I collage different found images to make unreasonable works that convey my experience through free, innocent and joyful ways. For example, I placed an onion on a couch instead of a potato, creating a "couch onion". I also placed a beautiful woman and credit cards in a hamburger to symbolizing human desires. I also play with words in works' titles. By switching or combining words that have similar pronunciations to make them strange. "Pizza Hurt" is an injured pizza sculpture wearing bandages. The inspiration of this work is my language barrier which makes me feel awkward but funny every time and I also consider it as an issue of cultural differences. I personify objects and try to put myself in their shoes. This method enables me to think in a weird way and create strange works. I am attracted to the balance between two opposite concepts, such as

pleasure and pain, cute and dangerous, bitter and sweet, etc. I believe that the latent humor would permeate from the middle of the two sides. To be brief, I pursue the sense of humor by challenging logic and disorienting the audience.

I am obsessed with the food culture in America especially. Born in an Asian country which values healthy eating, American fast food is like a forbidden fruit that has a special attraction for me. I was particularly lured by fast food's colors, shapes, packages and also the trait that it is so yummy, but not so healthy. I usually involve them in my works and my inspirations come from hundreds of fast food and supermarket flyers in my mailbox every week. Since the quantity of this kind of advertisement is so overwhelming that I can't help but let them fill in my whole brain, I can always connect everything with food and am always thinking about the question of whether food looks concrete or abstract. Seeing the triangle-shaped pizza, round pepperoni, melting strawberry-vanilla ice cream and the texture of meat makes me believe that every cook is actually an Abstract Expressionist artist. Besides, using these flyers to make paper Mache or repaint the objects on flyers makes me feel that there is an intricate relationship between my inspirations and works. Moreover, I finally realized that I was under the influence of consumerism in this country subconsciously.

To me, art is not just my silent language through which I say what I want to say and communicate freely with people, but also a channel to explore and understand the world and myself.