

[Cultural Statement]

**David Daehyun Chang**

I have lived in the East and West for many years since childhood, and broadened my knowledge by traveling abroad. I perceive the historical divide between the Oriental and Occidental worlds. But it is becoming one world, one counterbalancing the other as a cosmopolitan system is realized. Therefore, through my reflection on both, living color expresses mixed objects of both East and West.

I was born in the United States but I was educated under the Confucian standards of South Korea. After high school, I went on to earn a BFA with honors studying Visual Arts in New York, yet I also had the opportunity to study at the Barcelona Art Institute. So I find myself absorbed naturally into the traditional Confucian norms even while I draw from my diverse cultural experiences to constantly create artwork with free imagination and amusement. Moreover, influenced by the playground of shape and color within Abstract Expression and Surrealism, I have experimented with breaking normative orders, showing my art world through 6 solo exhibitions since middle school.

All this time on the canvas I have worked on abstraction, painted semi-figurative with oil color and re-interpreted oriental landscapes. I never missed an opportunity to refine my technical skills. In recent years, in the process of expressing memory by color, I tried new methods, which are the sand paper and masking tape application. The diligence of solo exhibitions helped me to get the most out of oil-painted landscape; I would carefully scratch it with sand paper. This method allows the color to come out in a raw way. The masking tape is also used to territorialize the fractions of memory. These techniques invite the unexpected so I have given each painting multiple chances to refresh the circulation of your memory and color.

In this way, my works, established on cultural experiences from the East and West, are expressed by color. And I will continue to experiment with diverse techniques in order to create my own art language, combining the East and West for many careers to come.