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wood stone poem

Meditations on The Natural by Andy Moerlein

May 5 – June 6, 2021

**Featuring: Guest Artists Mary Graham, Wen-hao Tien
and JooLee Kang**

Private VIP event/reception: Wednesday May 5th 5p-7p

First Friday opening May 7th 5p-8p & June 4th 5p-8p

Special events (WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED):

The Art of Bonsai -- Bonsai in Art. May 5, 5 pm

Sijo Contest Poetry Reading. May 15th, 3pm

The Significance of Stone. May 27th, 7pm

The Philosophy of Bonsai. June 3rd, 8 pm



On view May 5 to June 6, 2021, Andy Moerlein's exhibition *wood stone poem* considers ancient traditions of reverence for nature. While contemporary culture is confident of our dominance, the pandemic has laid bare the global impact of natural forces beyond our control. As we grapple with our persistent pursuit of comfort and relentless consumption, is it possible to be a gentle partner on this earth? Moerlein's sculptures invite meditations on *The Natural*.

The works featured are inspired by Moerlein's fascination with ancient practice of collecting and displaying unusual and often awkward stones. Brought indoors and placed on pedestals, these stones (*Scholars Rocks, Viewing Stones*) are transformed into icons of personal or imagined journeys. These rocks have influenced philosophers and artists for thousands of years.

New to this exhibition are Moerlein's tree forms. Eccentrically shaped sensual limbs entangle, embrace and support the artist's "handmade" stones. Reminiscent of the choreographic balance of bonsai cultivation, these constrained and designed forms are both delightful and unsettlingly unnatural. Moerlein's work shifts between a sense of complete control, and the awkward realization that things are totally wrong in his world.

Wood stone poem Meditations on The Natural by Andy Moerlein runs concurrently with *Donna Dodson: Amazons Among Us*. All events are free and open to the public with COVID -19 precautions in place.

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For More Information and High Resolution Images Contact:

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wood stone poem

Meditations on The Natural by Andy Moerlein

Featuring:

- Guest Artists JooLee Kang, Wen-hao Tien and Mary Graham
- A bonsai tree (May 5-9 ONLY) by Michael Levin courtesy of Bonsai West, Littleton, MA.
- Korean style Sijo poems from Min-Jeong Kim and prize winning poems selected by David McCann, Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Literature Emeritus at Harvard University. In partnership with the Korean Cultural Society of Boston 한미예술협회

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Meet and Greet with the Andy Moerlein: Saturdays May 8th, 15th and 22nd 11a-5p

Special events (ALL PRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED**):

- Mary Graham, Guest Artist and Michael Levin, Bonsai Master.
The Art of Bonsai -- Bonsai in Art. May 5, 5 p
IN-PERSON. Attendance limited **
- David McCann, Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Literature Emeritus, Harvard University, and Andy Moerlein
Poetry Reading. May 15th, 3p
Poets were invited to create Korean style Sijo poems inspired by individual sculptures in the show. Website: <https://sijocontest.blogspot.com/>
IN-PERSON. Attendance limited **
- Guest Artist Wen-hao Tien and Andy Moerlein
The Significance of Stone. May 27th, 7p
ZOOM ONLY. **
- Craig Yee, Founding Director of Ink Studio and Michael Hagedorn, Bonsai Master.
The Philosophy of Bonsai. June 3rd, 8 p
ZOOM ONLY. **

**andymoerlein@gmail.com for invitation

Mary Graham – Mary Graham is a visual artist focused on landscapes that reflect the spiritual dimensions of mountain wilderness. Her atmospheric paintings evoke a sense of solitude, sanctuary and transcendence, and express a reverence for nature, influenced by the mountains-and-rivers tradition of Chinese painting and poetry, and a nearly life-long interest in the art of bonsai, allowing for an intimate knowledge into the lives of trees. She received her BFA from the New Hampshire Institute of Art and her interest in Asian art has led to further study and practice in Chinese ink painting and Japanese hanga printmaking. Her paintings and prints are exhibited regularly in group and solo exhibitions in galleries throughout New England and New York.

Michael Hagedorn's bonsai work bridges tradition and innovative design. He apprenticed with bonsai master Shinji Suzuki in Obuse, Japan from 2003-2006, and authored the apprenticeship memoir 'Post-Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk' and the offbeat educational book 'Bonsai Heresy: 56 Myths Exposed Using Science & Tradition'. Formerly a potter, Michael is the Bonsai Consultant for the Portland Japanese Garden, teaches classes to international students at his garden Crataegus Bonsai, and blogs weekly at www.crataegus.com.

JooLee Kang received her MFA from Tufts University – School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, USA and her BFA in Painting from Duksung Women's University in Seoul, Korea. She had numerous exhibitions including solo exhibitions at Gallery NAGA (USA, 2020, 2017, 2014), Korean Cultural Center in Madrid (Spain, 2018), Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art (Korea, 2018), Harvard Medical School (USA, 2018), Museum of Art at Univ. of New Hampshire (USA, 2014) and group exhibitions at Amore pacific H.Q. (Korea, 2019), Newport Art Museum (USA, 2019), Suwon Ipark Museum of Art (Korea, 2018), Fitchburg Art Museum (USA, 2018), and Taipei Fine Arts Museum (Taiwan, 2017). Kang also received Suwon Cultural Foundation Artist Grant (2019), Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture Artist Grant (2018), SMFA Traveling Fellowship (2013), St. Botolph Club Artist Award (2012), and Massachusetts Cultural Council Award (2012). She was invited as an Artist-in-Residence at Gyeonggi Creation Center (Korea, 2018), Cheongju Art Studio (Korea, 2017), Willapa Bay AiR (USA, 2015), and Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum (China, 2014).

Michael Levin is a Bonsai Master Gardener and owner of Bonsai West since 1989. While running New England's premier bonsai nursery and greenhouses, Michael has accumulated an important collection of ancient trees and shares in his sales area a veritable museum of the world's finest bonsai from his personal collection in Littleton MA. One of Michael's trees will be featured in the gallery during the show May 5 – 7.

David McCann, the Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Literature Emeritus at Harvard University, received his B.A. from Amherst College, taught English for two years in Korea in the Peace Corps, and received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard. He has published thirty-one books: anthologies, studies on Korean literary culture, translations of the poets Sowol, Pak Chaesam, Kim Chi Ha, Ko Un, Kim Namjo, and So Chongju, as well as four collections of his own poetry. His work in the field of Korean literature has been recognized by the Manhae Prize in 2004, and the Korean Culture Order of Merit in 2006. His current work explores the performance functions of literature during periods of cultural confrontation, the case-study functions of historical compilations, and other features of Korean literature and literary culture.

Min-jeong Kim is a South Korean Sijo master poet. She received her PhD in Korean Literature from SunKyunKwan University. Presently she is the president of the Sijo Division of the Korean Writers association, a member of the Language Preservation Committee of the Korean PEN, a Director of the Korean Association of Sijo Poets, the Vice President of the of Kangdong Writers Association, an advisor of the Korean Female Writers Society and the Marae Sijo Poets Association, and she is member of the Wansoek Viewing Stone Society and the Soekgiwon Viewing Stone Society. She has published over ten books of Sijo Poems and a series of essays on the topic of Korean poetry. Her writings have won international acclaim and received numerous awards such as the Kim Gi-rim Literary Award, the Sijosihak Award, the Writer Award of the Korean Writers Association, etc.

Wen-hao Tien is a visual artist, speaker, and educator. Her studio practice focuses on language and translation, and explores culture and identity through a cross-cultural lens. Noticing the unnoticed, her interdisciplinary work brings out stories of a people. In drawings, sculptures, films, and words; leaving, returning, shuttling between field and studio; all these processes create the alchemy of her work. Recent work often addresses nomadism, our changing societies and the natural environment, being “out-of-place”--life in-flux.

Craig L. Yee (Seattle / Beijing) is a founding Director of Ink Studio, a Beijing-based gallery and experimental art space devoted to documenting and exhibiting China’s leading contemporary ink artists. Mr. Yee’s writing on contemporary ink has appeared in a number of monographs including *The Phenomenology of Life* (2014), on the semiotics of Huang Zhiyang’s multimedia practice, *Impulse, Matter, Form* (2014) on the ink abstractions of Zheng Chongbin, and *Carving the Unconscious* (forthcoming, 2015) on the woodcuts and paintings of Chen Haiyan. Mr. Yee has also played a central editorial role in university and museum research projects on classical and modern Chinese painting including *New Songs on Ancient Tunes* (2007) at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, *Selected Masterworks of Modern Chinese Painting: The Tsao Family Collection* (2011) at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, and the *Modern Ink* series of monographs on nineteenth and twentieth century Chinese ink painters published by the University of Hawaii Press.

The Korean Cultural Society of Boston, is dedicated to bringing the best of Korea to New England. We are a non-profit organization that prides itself on hosting and promoting Korean arts and cultural forms in the greater Boston area.



Images:



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