

mahan gallery

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 27, 2004

Mahan Gallery Opens Exhibition, New Work: Susan Li O'Connor and Cheong-ah Hwang, reception, Saturday, October 1st, 6-10pm

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The Mahan Gallery will exhibit selected new work from artists Susan Li O'Connor and Cheong-ah Hwang.

Cheong-ah Hwang was born in Seoul, South Korea. She studied Fine Art at OSU, focusing on Art and Technology and received her B.A. in 2000. After graduating she began working exclusively with paper as a sculptural medium. She has exhibited at the North Oak Gallery, A Muse gallery, the Ohio Art League and as part of a site-specific group show at Lindsey Alexander's private residence. Her work has been shown for the past three years at the Ohio State Fair Art Exhibition and in 2001 she received their Merit Award for her piece *Cock of the Walk*. In 2002 she received the GCAC Business Purchase Award.

Cheong-ah's interest in paper sculpture lies in its versatility, mainly its ability to evolve from a two-dimensional plane to a three-dimensional object. In her work she models common objects usually found in a bathroom medicine cabinet. These are mass-produced items that, through their use and familiarity, become a part of our personal lives. She chose these objects because they are manufactured to be not only functional containers for lotions, medicines, etc., but also to be a kind of media that stores information. The colors and shapes used in the product logos and package designs may be easily recognized by the viewer, evidence of the designs' abilities to infiltrate a person's memory and become a part of their life.

Each piece in this show consists of two objects - a model that acts as a three dimensional image of a 'real' object, and a diagram presented as a flat object. The abstract diagrams have the potential to be manipulated into versions of the representational 3D models. In presenting the objects this way, she experiments with these models and diagrams as both image and object, abstract and representational, and shows the transition from one to the other.

Susan Li O'Connor was born in Taipei, Taiwan. Her family moved to the east coast when she was five. She grew up in Maplewood, NJ and when she was seventeen her family moved to Columbus, OH. After graduating high school, she studied illustration and fine art at the Columbus College of Art and Design. She graduated in 1996, and went on to start her masters at California State University Sacramento in 1999, she has since moved back to Columbus and hopes to complete her master's degree in the future. Susan has exhibited her work at the in Sacramento, CA, and in Columbus. She has shown at Studio 972 and has had multiple shows at the Ohio Art League.

Susan's work deals with how humans interact and connect, both individually and as large populations. She uses her observations from the airport, doctor's office, and coffee shops and most significantly from her job as a fashion retailer. Her work encourages the viewer to consider the nature of their own encounters and relationships. As a result of working in the fashion industry she has also begun to deal with consumerism and identity as important facets of human interaction.

The Show will run October 1 through October 22.

The Mahan Gallery focuses on emerging and mid-career artists working in a variety of media, including painting, photography, and sculpture. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 11 am-7pm; Saturday-Sunday 12pm-6pm. The Mahan Gallery is located at 1042 N. High St.

*Please note our hours have changed.