

## Stare into space

Staring into space – what can be a more valuable behavior for a life lived in exuberant and vast cities, than to free oneself from the immediate tension of the senses and break out of the cage of intentionality?

In Seoul, in this megacity, there is a competition that encourages people to stare into space like this. With the so-called Space-out or Zone-out competition, people have to switch off and just stare into space - as if they had been hit by an overwhelming blow and been displaced. This displacement is intended to give us human beings the certainty of heart, composure and new inspiration.

In a time of information overload and the unmediated presence of the heterogeneous and non-simultaneous, I often lose myself. I'm perplexed, or is it just my heart: how much of it can be salvaged and how much can be quietly consigned to oblivion? Too many thoughts buzzing around in my head. The only thing that helps is to turn them off.

For me, painting is a process of focusing on what I love and looking at my own thoughts in depth and one step at a time. When I paint, my aim is not to put something I am intentionally reaching out to into a frame. Instead, I concentrate on what comes to me intuitively, what occurs to me: an image, a vision.

My subconscious or unconscious feelings flow into the pictures that are completed bit by bit, feelings that lie beyond nameable perception and are not even accessible to myself. However, my conscious aesthetic preference is involved in the decision-making process as to whether I omit or add something when painting. The pictures thus emerge on the border between consciousness and unconsciousness. And at the end, I look at the finished pictures, which are then a showcase of my past memories and feelings.

The whole process, from the beginning of the painting process to viewing the finished pictures, is for me similar to the act of looking within oneself and regaining the certainty of the heart, after having stared into space, driven mad by too many thoughts.

By ambiguously or paradoxically arranging objects, I convey on the one hand the border between reality and unreality. On the other hand, I put people into a state of confusion by blurring the boundaries, mixing photos with abstract elements. I hope that the people who look at my artwork get confused by these borders and stare into space for a while, each and everyone reliving my pictures in their own way, and gaining some comfort from them.