

Yuka Okane Inoue

Gallery two; October 02 – October 30, 2009

Adviser: Kim Vorel

Artist Reception; October 17, 1 – 3pm

Photographer: Syndi Simon

Artist statement

I grew up in Japan, and I moved to the U.S. four years ago. I am an immigrant. When I lived in Japan I must have said I am good at communicating with others, and after I moved here I became quiet. I could not help but face the language barrier and the different culture. I have been feeling self-hate, dilemma, loss of self-confidence and questioning who I am, what I can do, and how I can express what I want to express.

When I lived in Japan I did not know the beauty of Japanese culture, and from outside of Japan, from here, I came to notice that fascination. 青海波 Seigaiha, is a Japanese pattern, which means Blue Sea Wave. I did not notice the beauty of this pattern when I lived in Japan, because this pattern is too common there. Now, I don't hesitate to use this pattern in my pieces, because I recognized this perfection.

My mother, the most important person in the world for me, passed away nine years ago, suddenly and alone. I immediately felt my foundation was gone. It is still missing, and I have been feeling as I stand here without any foundation. I have lots of regrets for not having taken care of her. Now, even if I want to just talk with her, I can't do it. I can't touch her any more. Just one thing I can do is to look up at the sky where my mother is supposed to be. I hope she now lives there peacefully, with no pain. If there are stairs to the sky and I can climb the stairs, I will do it even if it is hard. She might be looking down at me from the sky. Therefore, I sometimes gaze the sky to try to talk to her. I am a skygazer.

Why do I use metals?...The reason is simple. Metal is flexible and honest, even if it looks cold and hard. There are many processes that can be changed from a flat sheet metal, which are sawing, soldering, hammering, forming and so on. When I start to make a piece I mostly face a sheet metal. If I work on the metals roughly, metals don't change as I want. I should treat metals carefully and honestly. I feel the same feeling in humans as I do in the nature of metals.

Unpolished stones and polished stones are the same to me. I feel in them that they are strong and beautiful, and I want to become like a stone.

I started to work on metals some years ago because, by chance, I saw my friend did. I really love this. I would like to make more pieces to express what I want to say.