

Newest exhibition shows contemporary Asian artists

Two artists' explorations of form led Acting Curator of Asian Art Mary Dusenbury to pair them in the next exhibition at the Spencer Museum of Art. *Form, Line, and Light: The Work of Shinoda Toko and Park Kwang Jean* opens in the White Gallery December 1. Japanese artist Shinoda, now 88, has had a long, illustrious career while Korean-born Park is gaining recognition at mid-point in her work.

Shinoda Toko (born 1913) is internationally acclaimed. Her appearance in a group show at the Museum of Modern Art in 1954 is indicative of the length and reach of her career. Shinoda trained as a calligrapher and had her first solo show of that art in 1940 in Tokyo. More recently she has worked in abstract prints and painting. Her art reveals a fundamental interest in form and in the expressive qualities of line. The works in this exhibition are drawn from the last two decades, with an emphasis on her most recent production. Included are six paintings and six lithographs (some in more than one part). At 88, Shinoda is producing some of the strongest work of her distinguished career. She has done commissioned work around the globe and her art is in major museum collections from Asia to Europe and the United States.



Park Kwang Jean

Friends of the Art Museum members will recognize Park Kwang Jean's name from the 2001 Annual Meeting. Her 1999 work *Yin-Yang* 9903 & 9904 was the Friends purchase for the Spencer Museum collection this year.

Korean-born Park (born 1957) has for some time been doing a series of works exploring the concept of Yin and Yang, the ancient Taoist philosophy of cyclic and perpetual intermeshing of opposites. She also uses other paired concepts such as heaven and earth as metaphors to express the abstract Yin-Yang theme. Often she presents her works in diptych form as a literal representation of the binary nature of her subject. Though Park's works are based on ancient Asian philosophy, they are neither traditional nor neatly symbolic. Rather, they are purely abstract and personal

responses to one model of cosmological order. Prior to this current series, Park made a series of works over many years that explored the subject of light in a similarly nonrepresentational style.

Park creates her large wood-block prints in two steps. After the block is carved and the image pressed onto paper, often multiple times, Park returns to the paper with brush and pencil to add elements of color and give richness and depth to the finished print. Due to this meticulous handwork, the editions of Park's works are very small. This exhibition, Park's first

museum exhibition outside Korea, includes four paintings and four print/paintings (including two diptychs).

Park, who is currently living in British Columbia, will speak about her work in "Questions on Existence," February 14, 7 p.m. in the Spencer Museum Auditorium. Earlier that same day, Allison Tolman, longtime friend of Shinoda Toko (as well as her U.S. gallery dealer and daughter of her Tokyo dealers), will lead the Tour du Jour of the exhibition, at 12:15 in the gallery. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Center for East

Asian Studies and the Spencer Museum are offering a Japanese/Korean Film Festival, Sundays at 2 p.m., January 20–February 17; details will be announced later.

The exhibition and programs are supported in part by Dr. and Mrs. David Hiebert; the Center for East Asian Studies; the East Asian Library; the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency; the Korean Cultural Center of Los Angeles; and federal agencies the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.