

Artist chose Mission because of the light

By Meg Grieve

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Kwang-Jean Park is a renowned Korean artist who has been living in Mission for five months.

After buying a house in August, they renovated the indoor pool to make a beautiful studio where Kwang-Jean creates her art. After looking at homes in both Hope and White Rock, the family chose Mission because she says it has a "soft sky light."

Born in Seoul, Korea, Park has a Master of Fine Arts degree from Ewha Women's University and also attended the Tama Art University in Tokyo, Japan. She then became a lecturer from 1990-1996 in Seoul.

Her work has been shown all over the world. Today, she has exhibits in Chicago, Boston and Calgary.

Her first series of paintings in the 1980s was titled Light. This artwork was based on the effects of light revealing and hiding images in urban spaces.

"I live immersed in such visions, without awakening to learn of myself or my neighbors," she said.

She started this series with stone powder on canvas using very neutral colors and clear lines. She then switched to etching and began using darker tones and some red highlights. Her editions of prints

are very small. Only six to nine prints can be made. Because of this, much of her work is classified as multiples and originals.

In the late 1980s, Park started a second series titled Yin-Yang, which continued with the contrast between light and dark and also dealing with the contrasts between the yin and yang. For this series she started using oil color on cloth.

Also part of her Yin-Yang series is the work she is doing today. This work is done using a two-step process to create large wood block prints.

First she designs the composition from which the wood block will be cut. When the wood is cut she inks it and presses the image to paper. She then finishes it by adding color and depth with her brush. This produces large dark shapes with "spark-like flecks" that hover around the edges.