

ABOUT THE ARTIST

EDUCATION

- 2013 **Individual Workshop**, Photogravure
Cape Fear Press, Carolina Beach, NC
- 2011 **Bachelor of Fine Arts**, Drawing & Printmaking
University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI

SELECTED EXHIBITION RECORD

- 2013 ***Mystic Hands***
Hoofprint Workshop, Chicago
- Portraits***
Gallery 224, Port Washington, WI
- From Plate to Paper: The Art of Printmaking***
Monmouth Museum of Art, Lincroft, NJ
- Body Like a Barrow***
Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago
- Top Drawer Prints***
Peltz Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- 2012 ***Southern Graphics Council Exhibition***
Travelling internationally through 2015
- Inspired by...***
Woman Made Gallery, Chicago
- 2011 ***Can You Make This Last Forever?***
Common Wealth Gallery, Madison, WI

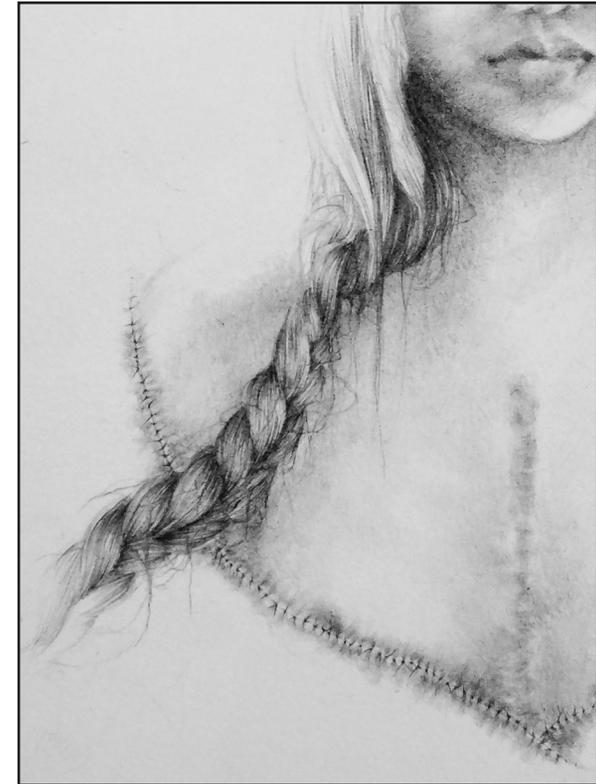
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2011- **Printer**
pres. White Wings Press, Chicago

More information about Kao and her work:
www.frozencharlottepress.com

Raeleen Kao

Inhospitable



December 14, 2013 – June 8, 2014

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF SURGICAL SCIENCE

1524 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60610
www.imss.org

STATEMENT

In my earliest memory, I was laying heavily sedated on a hospital bed at three years old. In the four hours prior, my heart had been cut out from my chest and my body sustained on a machine which replicated a heart's function of pumping blood through my arteries. I see my work as a record from that first memory through a series of separate chronic conditions and surgical procedures which continue to affect my body.

I see beauty as a mask for the morbidity of deterioration and draw on the vanity associated with desperation to produce a façade of stability as the body becomes increasingly susceptible to illness. The manner in which I depict hair demonstrates the delicacy of an individual strand, as well as the contrived beauty of a braid, and exposes its easily disheveled nature. Hair exists as a form of pride, infamously with Marie Antoinette to its modern importance with cancer patients. In my work, I explore hair as a precise record of health and as an extension of femininity and sexual power, made most evident in its absence under the invasive treatment of chemotherapy.

I focus on scars, stitches, and biopsy sites which actively externalize one's most intimate medical history. My self-portraits explore the body as an object vulnerable to physical and psychological trauma as a result of disease and subsequent treatment. My portrayal of the body confronts the prospect of death and exhibits loss, with exhausted passiveness represented by figures curled up in child-like and fetal positions that convey the impression of sleep.

These themes of loss are heavily centered on aspects of the body which anatomically define a woman. Historically, there has always been a stigma placed upon women who are unable to conceive, who give birth to stillborn children, or who suffer miscarriages. The shapes I choose to construct reference nests, umbilical cords, and ovum. These images obsess over a destruction of the female reproductive system and the recurring trauma of the loss of a child.

This exhibition is the latest in the Museum's ongoing ANATOMY IN THE GALLERY series exploring embodiment through contemporary art. More information about this program is available at www.imss.org/anatgallery.htm.



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

CHECKLIST

1. ***More Beautiful in Death*, 2012**, 2-plate etching & aquatint edition of 8; \$300 unframed, \$350 framed
2. ***Inhospitable*, 2013**, 2-plate etching, aquatint, & chine colle edition of 7; \$350 unframed, \$425 framed
3. ***Untitled*, 2012**, graphite and monoprint, \$825 framed
4. ***Haunted Chamber*, 2013**, 4-plate etching & aquatint edition of 6, \$465 framed
5. ***Without Me, You're Nothing (1 of 2)*, 2013**, graphite on paper contact artist for pricing
6. ***Poison Shared Is Poison Halved (1 of 2)*, 2013**, graphite on paper contact artist for pricing
7. ***Poison Shared Is Poison Halved (2 of 2)*, 2013**, graphite on paper contact artist for pricing
8. ***Without Me, You're Nothing (2 of 2)*, 2013**, graphite on paper contact artist for pricing
9. ***Perfect Grave II*, 2013**, 4-plate etching & aquatint edition of 4, \$465 framed
10. ***Carrier*, 2013**, 2-plate etching, chine colle, & collagraph edition of 7, \$414 framed
- 11-15. ***Untitled I-V*, 2012**, graphite on paper, each \$1,250 framed
16. ***Pretty Maids (1 of 3)*, 2012**, graphite on paper, \$666 framed
17. ***Pretty Maids (2 of 3)*, 2012**, graphite on paper, \$975 framed
18. ***Pretty Maids (3 of 3)*, 2012**, graphite on paper, \$400 framed
19. ***Visiting Graves*, 2013**, graphite on paper, \$900 framed
20. ***An Imperfect Truth*, 2013**, graphite on paper, \$500 framed
21. ***Coexist*, 2013**, graphite on paper, \$1,325 framed
22. ***Father's Pride*, 2013**, 4-plate etching & photogravure edition of 6; \$375 unframed, \$440 framed
23. ***Mother's Treasure*, 2013**, 4-plate etching & photogravure edition of 6; \$375 unframed, \$440 framed

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