

Exhibition Overview

- Jae Ko was born in Korea, studied graphic and commercial design in Japan, and completed her graduate studies in Baltimore, Maryland. She is currently based near Washington D.C.
- Early on she worked with rice paper and later using more mass-produced commercial paper products. Her first explorations included large brown Kraft paper rolls, discarded books, and small cash register paper rolls. She would expose the paper to the natural elements including burying it, exposing it to sunlight, or burning it.
- In creating the installation *flow 流*, Jae Ko was inspired by the vast landscape of the northern reaches of North America, specifically the melting tundra with its floating and fractured glaciers.
- To create her site-specific installation at CAMH, Jae Ko used large coils of recycled paper that she unspools on a homemade turntable refashioned from a potter's wheel, rewinds more loosely, then molds and shapes into a large paper landscape.
- Her early works were inspired by Korean calligraphy and traditional women's hairstyles and consisted of smaller works. She has shifted to creating more monumental installations that are inspired by landscapes.
- Not all of the rolls of paper are the exact same shade of white pushing the viewer to look closely and see all of the different colors that exist in the white paper folds and curves.
- Jae Ko hopes to transport the viewers to a fantastical winter landscape different from the reality of the hot Houston summer.

Key Questions

1. Have Jae Ko's explorations and experiments with paper made you view the material in a new light?
2. What landscapes inspire you?
3. Jae Ko says that she draws with paper. Based on this statement, how would you define drawing?
4. What has the artist done to transform an everyday material into something monumental?
5. How would the installation change if she was inspired by a different landscape?
6. What makes an installation site-specific?

Curriculum Connections

SOCIAL STUDIES Learning about different cultures—calligraphy and braiding hair are large parts of Korean culture that also impacted Jae Ko's aesthetic. What other artists have been influenced by their cultural heritage? How does your cultural heritage impact you?

SCIENCE Glaciers, volcanoes, and other natural wonders. The human impact on nature. National parks.

VISUAL ART History of landscape paintings and drawings—how does that relate to this installation? What other artists are working so obsessively with only one material?



Above
Installation view of Jae Ko's *Force of Nature, Escalante* at Grounds for Sculpture, 2015–16. Recycled paper, dimensions variable. Photo courtesy the artist.