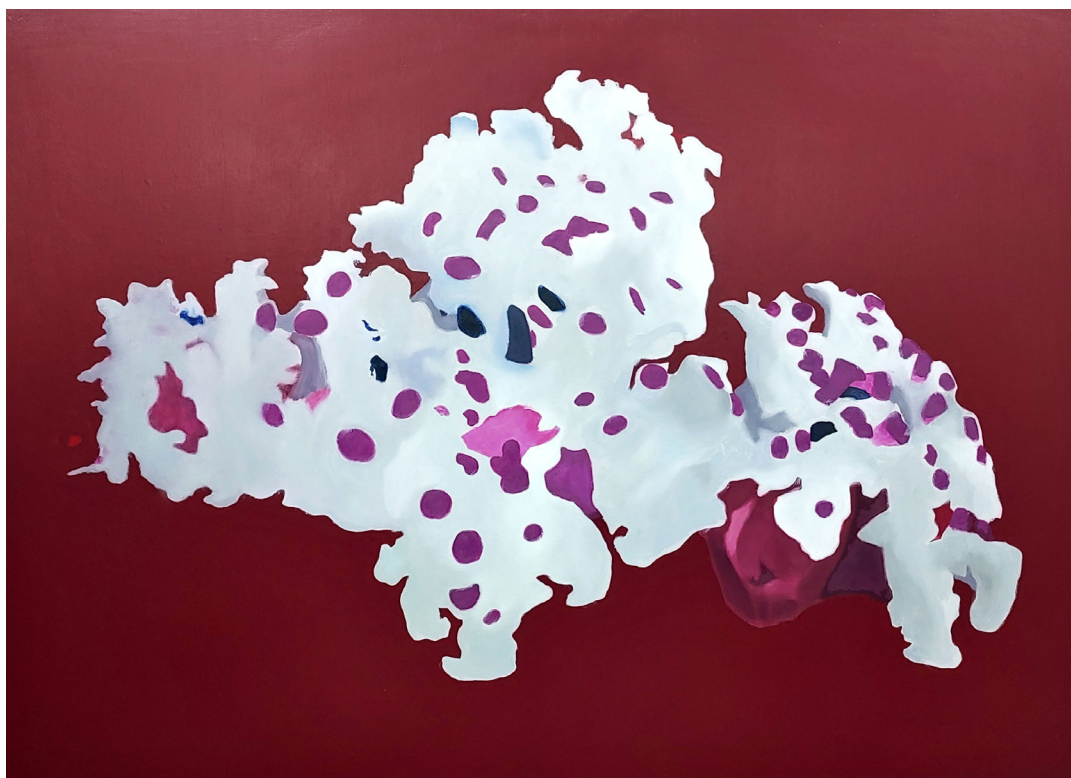


Newsletter

Issue: 58

Feb. 2024

Studio Now



In the workshop, I am continuing to work on the Cognition series.

Kim's Essay

Self-awareness

Kierkegaard's "The Solo in Front of God," Heidegger's "Dasein," Chartres' "Being for Self, and Others" and Jaspers' "Existential Awareness." After the last exhibition, I looked back at the meanings of concepts I thought of.

The motivation for my creations started from a religious basis. I wanted to know if 'God' the Bible claims to exist truly does exist, wanted to know who I, the creation, is, and felt interested in the concepts presented by the existentialist philosophy, comparing them to my young self – to the dark and seemingly never-ending experiences he was having.

The common keyword for the Forgetting, Cognition, and the upcoming series was 'I'. And the others who are 'in the same place as I am'. If I were to use philosophical concepts, it is 'I', a person who would ask himself questions about his existence and find answers every time. As I try to figure out who I am through others since although I am curious, I cannot see myself, and think about the city where I, along with others, grew up, the concept, though it may be a bit serious, that held most value to me was 'I, Others, and the City'. As I would probably die after living amongst others within a city.

Perhaps because of the experiences I had throughout life, as I am in my mid-40s, I tend to take more time to focus and look back at myself. Also, the reason why I empathize with the news of others who have no common ground with me may be because of a sense of kinship where we are living in the same space called the city, though our ways are different. Amongst many, I am reminded of a few incidents that occurred to people around me.

1. An acquaintance in his 40s, who suddenly collapsed and died while taking a shower when he got home from work.
2. A self-employed person, who was frustrated with losing all his property due to a stock crash while slowing down stock sales because he was excited about stocks that were rising until a few days ago.
3. A young couple, who has to pay the principal and interest of the bank loan as they bought the apartments by drawing all the money, including bank loans, but the construction of the apartment was suspended due to bankruptcy of the construction company.
4. A ballerino, who had a hard time getting a chance to stand on stage again after leaving because of the practice of those who reach the mid-30s having to leave the National Ballet for the juniors when he liked ballet since he was young, so he majored in contemporary dance, joined the National Ballet and gained popularity.

Limitation. They all would have made the best choice for themselves, but the result they had to face was a limitation they couldn't help themselves. Only when faced with this situation does the ego find them. Or maybe the ego was always observing, but they weren't conscious of themselves.

I have encountered this limitation several times.

Awareness. Each time, I asked myself about "the reason for my existence and the purpose of my life" and looked for answers. I didn't get the same answer every time, but I think the answer was best at the time. Suddenly this thought occurred to me. I and the others I encounter in the city are fleeting beings who look back on themselves in the process of self-awareness and live by understanding and empathizing with others based on that self.