

I'll Be There

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Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts

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Fond du Lac, WI 54935

I'll Be There invites viewers to explore their own spiritual worlds.

This series, ***KuroKuroShiro*** (meaning black-black-white in Japanese), attempts to offer spaces where viewers can privately immerse themselves in their own psychological and spiritual world. They are painted with Sumi, an ink traditionally used in East Asia. Sumi is made of soot and animal glue and offers a wide range of tones and depths in black. With the subtle shifts of blacks, the spiritual and imaginative worlds emerge.

Soot is the main ingredient in Sumi. The particles of soot are important because they carry the spirit of what was originally burned to create the soot as well as the energies and spirit of the craftsmen who create Sumi. When the viewer is open to the spirit, a space is initiated where the collective spirit freely travels around, bringing colors into viewers' eyes. While the paintings are not expressing something by themselves, they provoke viewers' personal agendas and provide a blank space for their spiritual contents to fill up.

In ***I'll Be There***, four works on paper are presented in a traditional Japanese mounting scroll called *Kakejiku*. Even though they are in a vertical format, they are still landscapes, and each generates a seasonal tone: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. These tones are echoed by the choice of the mounting fabrics. Spring and summer are accompanied by a pattern called 牡丹唐草 (Botan Karakusa: peony arabesque), and autumn and winter enjoy a pattern called 蜀江 (Shokkou/Yangzi: name of a river in China).

These four paintings use the abstract language that has been long accepted in the Western world. The cultures from the west and east are mingling as an ongoing cultural amalgamation process. This is a function of calling forth a spiritual reconciliation between traditions and sacred recognitions of beauty.

I intend to make this exhibition the arena for all us to communicate beyond culture, language, and time.