

## Artist Statement

Name: Chan Jeong

My art serves as a medium for exploring and expressing the emotions I've encountered throughout my life. I am often challenged by recognizing emotions from facial expressions, and I believe that there are many more stories and emotions behind every face than just a few facial expressions I could recognize in a second. So, I refrain from drawing human faces in my artwork. Instead, I draw objects as a metaphor for emotions, as the Bible has its rich tapestry woven with analogies and metaphors. My creative process handles emotions and abstract ideas in a subtle and nuanced manner. While the symbolism that I use in my artworks may not be immediately explained or directly communicated to viewers, I strive to create multi-layered meanings that encourage the audience's introspection and reflection to question a meaning, process emotions, and reflect on their experiences.

When I dealt with depression and loneliness, I felt that God's words written in the Bible truly comforted me. God touched my heart, empathized with me, and made me strong with His words. This is why I am passionate about using some metaphors given in the Bible for my drawings so that they could be used as tools to comfort the audience going through or having an experience of sadness in their lives.

Throughout my artistic journey, I have noticed a societal bias towards certain emotions, especially loneliness, which is often regarded as a negative emotion. Through my artworks, I aim to challenge these stereotypes and prejudices towards negative emotions and encourage a more positive worldview. If it was a sunny day yesterday, it could be cloudy, rainy, or even snowy tomorrow. I want to comfort my audience that negative emotions are needed in our lives to make us strong and brave—and it is okay to be sad.

Ultimately, my goal as an artist is to break down barriers and promote empathy and understanding among individuals. By sharing my personal experiences and emotions through my art, I hope to foster an open dialogue about the complexities of human emotion and to inspire a greater appreciation for the diversity of the human experience.