



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Namwon Choi *en route*

On view: September 2 - October 29, 2022

Reception: September 16, 6 - 9pm

Laney Contemporary is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Korean-born, Savannah-based artist, Namwon Choi. *En Route* features a selection of hand-painted gouache landscapes on panels that suggest the transformative nature of conceptual landscape. Extensively trained in traditional Korean painting at Hongik University in Seoul, Korea, Choi's attention to detail, texture, linework, and atmospheric effect read as photo-realistic while the liminal spaces of the road suggest a critical reflection upon how landscape, space, travel, idealism, and realism are not static, but ever-adjusting cultural constructions.

To be *en route* is both exciting and uncertain. It involves the complexities of transitioning from place to place and can be a process that traverses not only distance but culture and time. It involves literal and metaphorical perspective shifts, and changes of state, both emotional and physical. *En Route* explores these liminal spaces through devices such as repetition, color awareness, shape and scale-shifting, montage, and experimental wall installation. Choi's work suggests that intermediate spaces and states are not negative experiences, but stages full of process. Blue, punctuated by Day-Glo colors, is the color

of distance and atmospheric transformation, suggesting the time and space of possibility. The blue of distance is contrasted with the intense detail of a near-sightedness that requires close looking, presence, and attention. The eye is drawn-in at close range to the subject matter of distance, thwarting it and instead creating space for intimacy. Unspecified, open roads and highways create uncertainty while the details and wonderment of foliage and land formations, ground and sky, remain steadfast. We could be in Korea or France or the United States, all the roads are en route, specific, *and* universal.

Bio:

Namwon Choi acquired her BFA and MFA in Traditional Korean Painting from Hongik University in Seoul, Korea in 2002, and her MFA in Drawing and Painting at Georgia State University in Atlanta in 2014. Her work has been exhibited at the New York City Korean Culture Center, the Los Angeles Korean Culture Center, Aqua Art Miami, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Atlanta, GA and the B20:Wiregrass Biennial at the Wiregrass Museum in Dothan, Alabama. Her work in the “New Connections” exhibition at the Korean Cultural Center in Washington D.C. was reviewed in *The Washington Post*. In 2020, she was one of three finalists selected for the most recent 1858 Prize Contemporary Southern Art Award at the Gibbes Museum in Charleston, South Carolina. She is currently a professor of Foundation Studies at Savannah College of Art and Design.

Reception details:

Our reception for Namwon Choi and Hasani Sahlehe will take place on Friday, September 16th from 6 to 9pm with a food truck on premises. Please join us for a toast at 7 PM to celebrate Namwon, Hasani and 5 wonderful years!

Gallery hours and contact information:

Tuesday - Friday, 11-5 pm

Saturday, 11-2 pm

and by appointment

Phone: (912) 438-4442

Email: info@laneycontemporary.com

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Image above:

Namwon Choi

Shape of Distance (Octagon), 2021

Gouache and acrylic on panel, 20 x 32 in