

One An Other

Mural installation by Jiha Moon

Stanley Museum, University of Iowa

With a deceptively lighthearted touch, [Jiha Moon](#) (b. 1973, South Korea) examines the entanglements of, as she puts it, “globalization, identity, and the visual information overload of contemporary society.” Incorporating painting, drawing, collaged Hanji paper, and ceramics, *One An Other* is now on view in the museum lobby. It represents the most ambitious site-specific installation to date by Moon, who received her MFA degree at the University of Iowa in 2002.

Moon’s work crackles with neon colors and ripples with imagery synthesized from tattoo designs, Korean temple paintings, video games, social media, and Pop art. Fortune cookies and bananas, among other motifs, allude to cross-cultural encounters and diasporic movement. Moon is fascinated by the circulation of cultural symbols and cheekily recontextualizes them to destabilize our assumptions. As she puts it, “misunderstanding is a step towards understanding.” Here in *One An Other*, ceramic masks float within a fanciful still-life tableau. Moon, who explores hybridity in both form and content, says that she enjoys “evolving and changing painting and ceramic on the same surfaces at the same time.” Masks are ritualistic objects with countless sacred, folk, and secular functions, but are also subject to projection and distortion. These tokens of Western colonialism were famously appropriated by aesthetic movements like Expressionism and Cubism to advance their narratives of modernity.

For Moon, these double-edged associations make masks a compelling vehicle for considering the tensions between self and other, reality and fantasy. “I am intrigued by the fact that when we try to understand others we always filter through ourselves,” she notes. This sense of simultaneity and refraction colors Moon’s title, a play on the phrase “one another,” which suggests reciprocity. With a flick of the pen, the words transform into *One An Other*, a construction that expands, imposes distance, and accentuates alterity.

One An Other is the third installment in the museum’s [Thresholds series](#), which highlights the work of Iowa-affiliated artists. It was created with assistance from her family member Andy Moon Wilson, Oliver Moon Wilson, FSU MFA students Ysabel Flores, Hannah Keats, a UI MFA student, Shaun Mallonga, and undergrad Carter White. It will remain on view until summer 2026. Jiha Moon was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2023 and is currently an Assistant Professor of Art at Florida State University in Tallahassee.



One An Other, Installation view, 2024

Stanley Museum, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Acrylic paint and ceramic masks with painted Hanji paper
Two-year commission with support from the Gerald Eskin Ceramics Art Initiative, Maryann Evans, and the Friends of Museum of Art Fund



1. Work in progress with two FSU MFA students Ysabel Flores and Hannah Keats
2. Jiha is working on a mural
3. *Imugi She*, 2019, Porcelain, mason stain, underglaze, glaze, lapis, resin 18in x 11in x 4in.
4. *Nabi Gaksi*, earthenware, underglaze, glaze, found object, wire.
5. *Norang* 2020, Porcelain, underglaze, glaze, found object, 17in x 9.5in x 2.5in

<https://stanleymuseum.uiowa.edu/art/exhibitions/current/one-other>

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