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My name is Ji Young Chun, a senior with Visual Arts major and Visual and Media Studies minor at Duke University. Last semester, I focused on brainstorming the ideas of “dreams”. I created dreamlike scenes with paper sculptures and a projection of an animation. This semester, I have expanded my ideas of “dreams” and drawn more concrete ideas from it. From my perspective, “dreams” are an unreal and indescribable feeling, and I’ve realized how the love of my life, food, lets me experience the dream. My initial approach was to create an adjective word, foontastic, which is a combination of “food” and “fantastic”. Through my foontastic journey, I intend to study how indescribable feelings can be transformed into the forms of poems and paintings.

1 Overview

My name is Ji Young Chun, a senior with Visual Arts major and Visual and Media Studies minor at Duke University. Last semester, I focused on brainstorming the ideas of “dreams”. I created dreamlike scenes with paper sculptures and a projection of an animation. This semester, I have expanded my ideas of “dreams” and drawn more concrete ideas from it. From my perspective, “dreams” are an unreal and indescribable feeling, and I’ve realized how the love of my life, food, lets me experience the dream. My initial approach was to create an adjective word, foontastic, which is a combination of “food” and “fantastic”. Through my foontastic journey, I intend to study how indescribable feelings can be transformed into the forms of poems and paintings.

2 Artist’s Statement

I am a visual artist who is deeply interested in Surrealistic arts. Inspired by contemporary artists Wangechi Mutu and Yayoi Kusama, I’ve thought of creative ideas to represent my thoughts. First, I created an adjective word foontastic combining “food” and “fantastic” because I find eating favorite food something much more than just satisfying primitive instincts for living, but experiencing of heaven and fantasy. I feel unreal when I consume my favorite foods such as Korean hot pot, Korean snack (ddukbokki, soondae), ramen, garlic, avocado, or chocolate. My project is poetic and visual transformations of my dreamlike experiences while consuming those favorite foods. I get the most powerful feelings when I consume my favorite foods, as strong as love for I’ve used strong words and colors in my poems and paintings. I’ve thematically and visually linked the poems and the paintings, so I can demonstrate the relationships between them. Although my works are abstract and personal, you will realize that they make sense if you start connecting the relationships.
3 Inspirations

Contemporary artists Wangechi Mutu and Yayoi Kusama are the strongest inspirations for me. They provide me the most creative ideas not only for the themes but also for the materials - mixed media.

Wangechi Mutu _Funkalicious fruit field
2007. Ink, paint, mixed media, plastic pearls, and collage on Mylar; overall: 92 x 106 inches (233.7 x 269.24 cm).
Wangechi Mutu_Yo Mama
2003. Ink, mica flakes, pressure-sensitive synthetic polymer sheeting, cut-and-pasted printed paper, painted paper, and synthetic polymer paint on paper; overall: 59 1/8 x 85 inches (150.2 x 215.9 cm).

Wangechi Mutu_Misguided Little Unforgivable Hierarchies
2005. Ink, acrylic, collage, and contact paper on Mylar; 81 x 52 inches (205.74 x 132.08 cm).
Yayoi Kusama, *Fireflies on the Water*
2002. Mirror, plexiglass, 150 lights, and water, 111 × 144 1/2 × 144 1/2 in. (281.9 × 367 × 367 cm) overall.
Yayoi Kusama, *Mystery of the universe*, 2013. Acrylic on canvas, 76 3/8 x 76 3/8 inches (194 x 194 cm)

Yayoi Kusama, *Dance party night*, 2013. Acrylic on canvas, 76 3/8 x 76 3/8 inches (194 x 194 cm)
4 Progress of Ideas
“A word is worth a thousand ideas” Here are the poems of my reflection on favorite food.

**Korean hot pot indulgence**

Hot red ecstasy;

Pain creates miracle

Heaven, here I am
Golden Happiness

Grey grandmother holds
Their golden kids inside her body
Small, but powerful enough
to burn your taste buds into fire

The golden kids
Turn into
Precious slices of golden happiness
As you kiss them
You become a white angel
Floating on fire
Bittersweet
Golden happiness

The one

I dive into those gorgeous almond eyes
Serenading a sweet love song like chocolate dipped strawberry
Swim until I realize I can bring the moon in the sky
For you

Soft and fragile as a baby
The world is menacing for a small, untainted deer
As pure as he would find himself in a mirrored pond

I dive into those gorgeous almond eyes
You bring me to a whole new world

The world is white
It is time for us to paint the white canvas into
Full of colorful dreams
Avocado

The small rugby ball that comes from the south
Seems hard but is as soft as a morning dew
Warmhearted but also cool as lemon splash
Charms my taste buds with delightful kiss
Beautiful cozy clouds melt in my mouth
And float me within a vivid green dream
A marshmallow of nature, ripe and young
Lets me swim in seas of soft ice cream
I’ve waited for this moment of glory
For my entire life seeking true pleasure
How much I feel joy is hard to measure
Aa— vo-ca-do-, you gave me a new birth
What a miraculous bliss on earth!

Funkalicious Fruit Field

A monkestor flies above avatalicious fruit field
Boasting its gorgeous pink and brown tails
Rokees grow from the ground
And they have grown poison of their own special recipe
Cooking with the creepistein possible ingredients
The rokees try to reach high to attack the monkestor
The rokees dance with wormees
And they create a beautiful harmony of
Fruity bean sprouts monkage
The sky is a carpet filled with broken crystals
They are insulted by the monkestor
So the rokees and wormees have to kill
the monkestor
As soon as possible
Ramelody

Bo-geul Bo-geul –
Ji-geul Ji-geul –
The reddest lava boils
Rainbow baby dragons
Jumps into that lava
They dance and swing
In the heaven of the reddest lava
Hundreds of golden harp strings
Sunk in the lava
Rainbow baby dragons
Play on the beautiful golden bridge
Making a musical sounds of heaven

Bo-geul Bo-geul –
Ji-geul Ji-geul –
What a magnificent melody!

Soondaegook

Priceless Dadaegi in boiling Soon-dae-gook
Stir the red and the white to be mixed in peace

As the red and the white achieve reconciliation,
Boiling Soon-dae-gook leads you to heavenly journey
by the Cinderlla’s stagecoach

Ah, this is it!
6 Paintings

“A picture is worth a thousand words” Here are the paintings of my reflection on favorite food. I started with color pencils for drawing, and painted mostly with acrylics. I then made a final touch with oil paint sticks.
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Ji Young Chun

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