

Ji Young's  
**FOONTASTIC**  
Journey

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# 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

adj. foontastic

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.



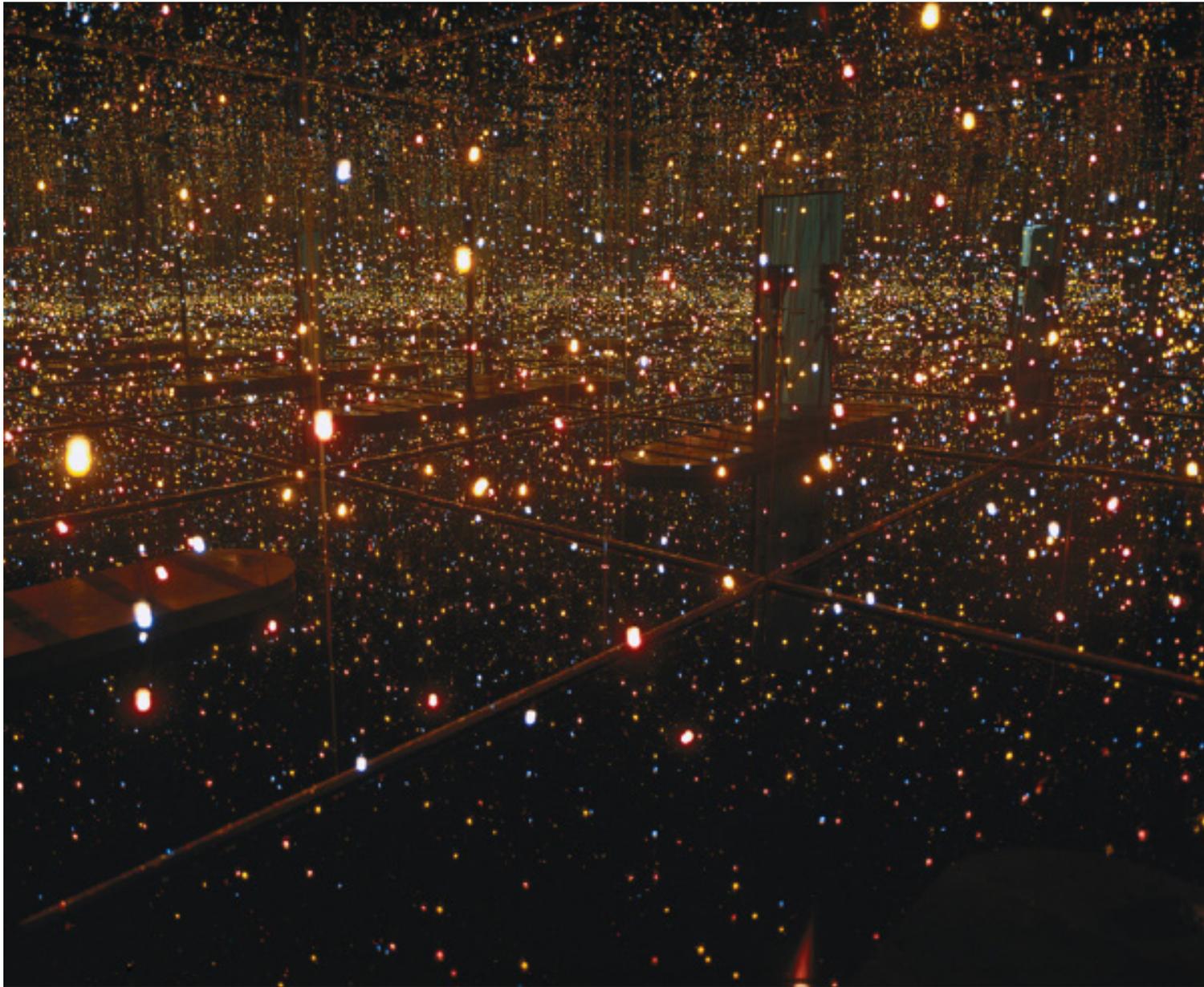
Wangechi Mutu \_Funkalicious fruit field  
2007. Ink, paint, mixed media, plastic pearls, and collage on Mylar; overall:  
92 x 106 inches (233.7 x 269.24 cm).



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).



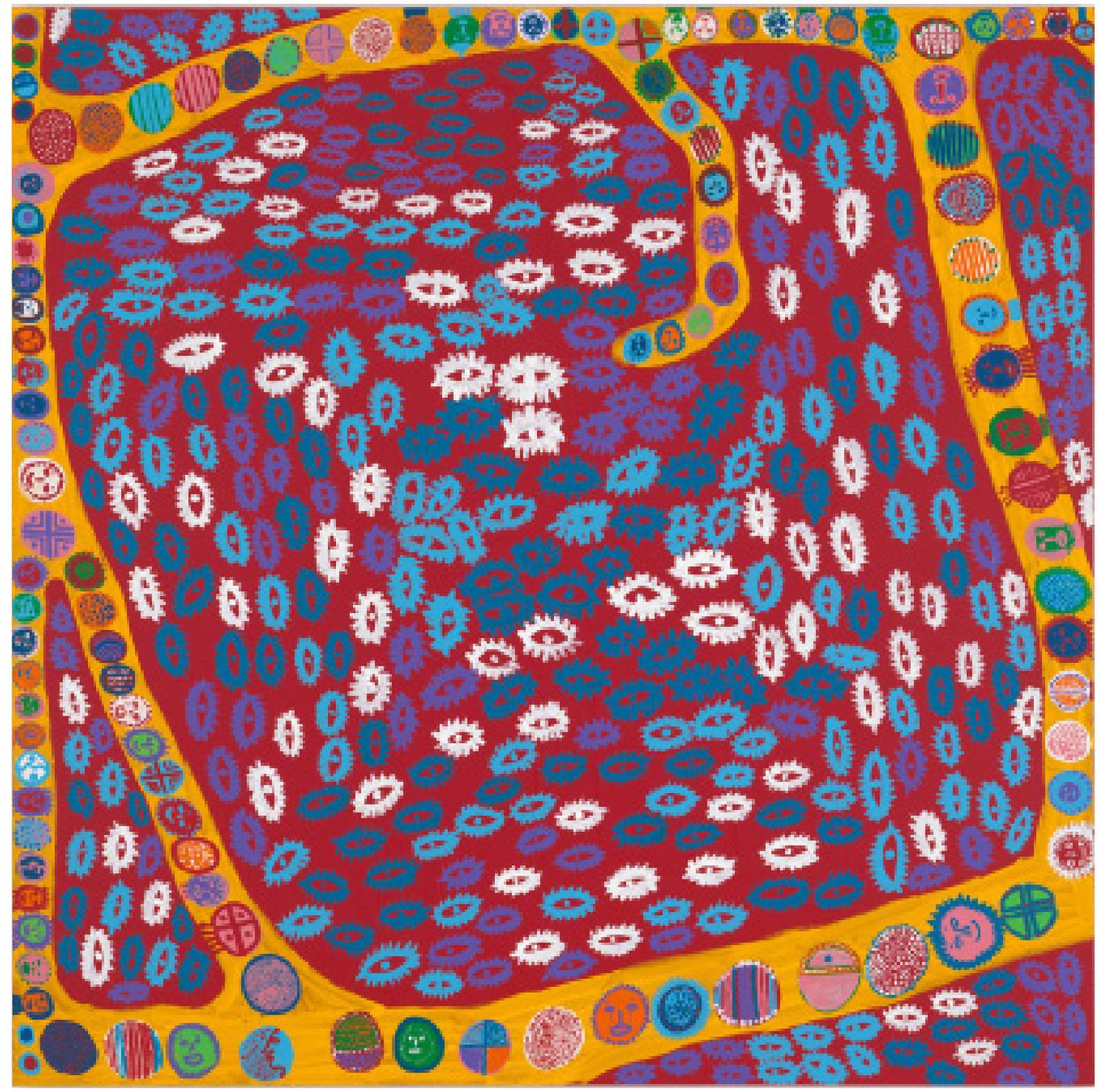
Yayoi Kusama\_Fireflies on the Water  
2002. Mirror, plexiglass, 150 lights, and water, 111 × 144 1/2 × 144 1/2  
in. (281.9 × 367 × 367 cm) overall.



Yayoi Kusama\_Fireflies on the Water  
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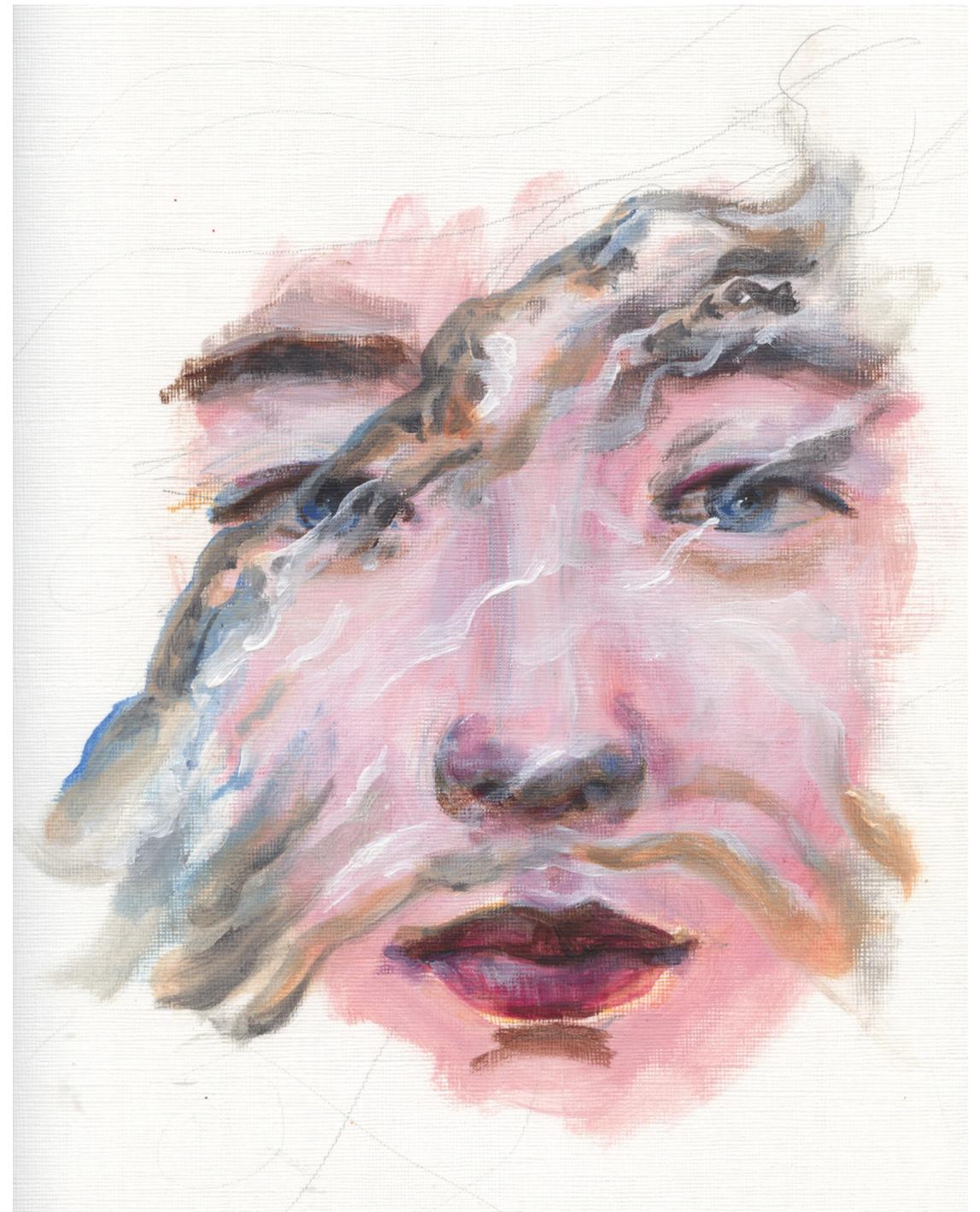


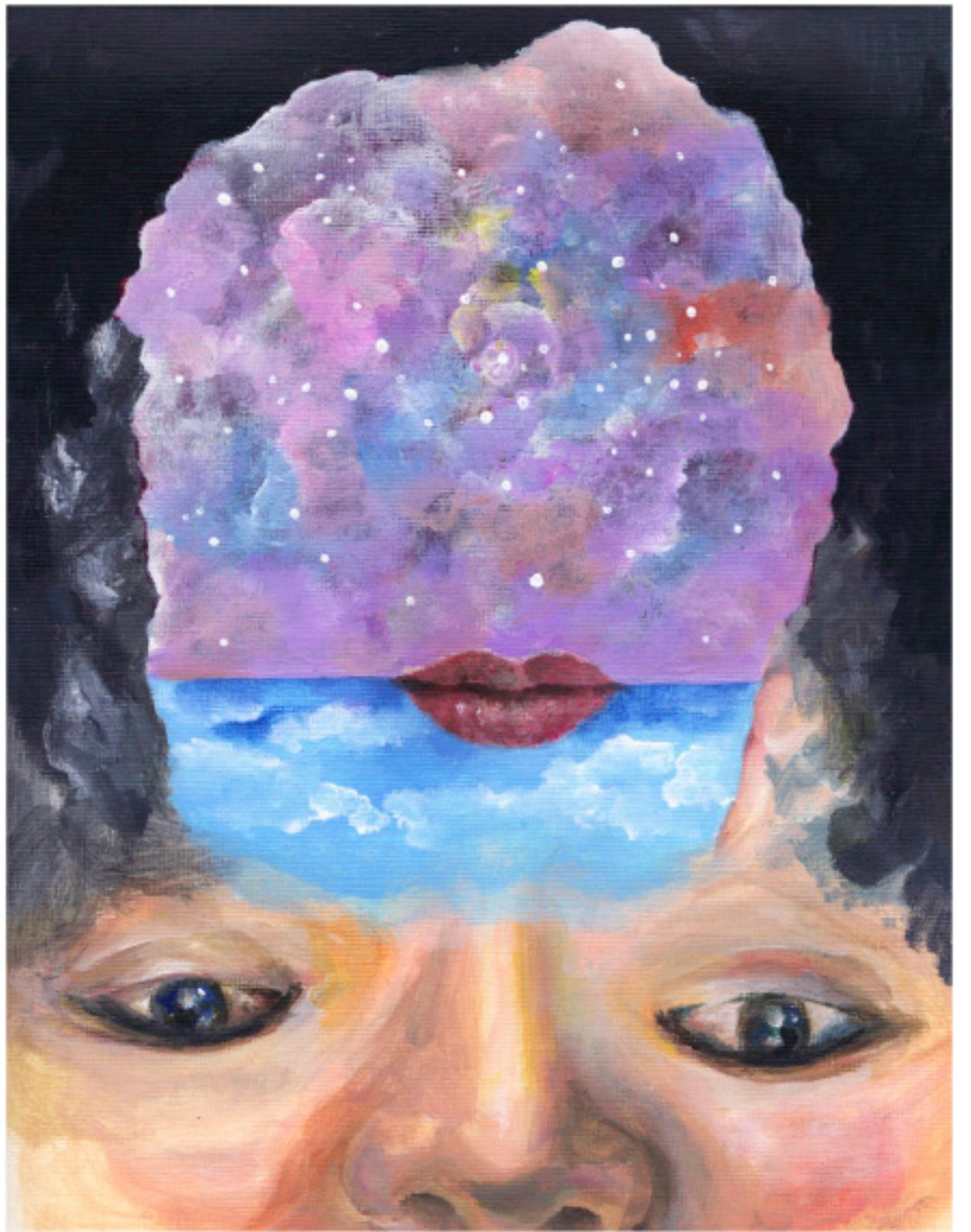
Yayoi kusama\_Mystery of the universe  
2013. Acrylic on canvas  
76 3/8 x 76 3/8 inches (194 x 194 cm)



Yayoi kusama\_Dance party night  
2013. Acrylic on canvas  
76 3/8 x 76 3/8 inches (194 x 194 cm)









## 5 Poems

"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 reddist lava boils

Rainbow baby dragons

Jumps into that lava

They dance and swing

In the heaven of the reddist lava

Hundreds of golden harp strings

Sunk in the lava

The 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 Cinderella's stagecoach

Ah, this is it!

## 6 Paintings

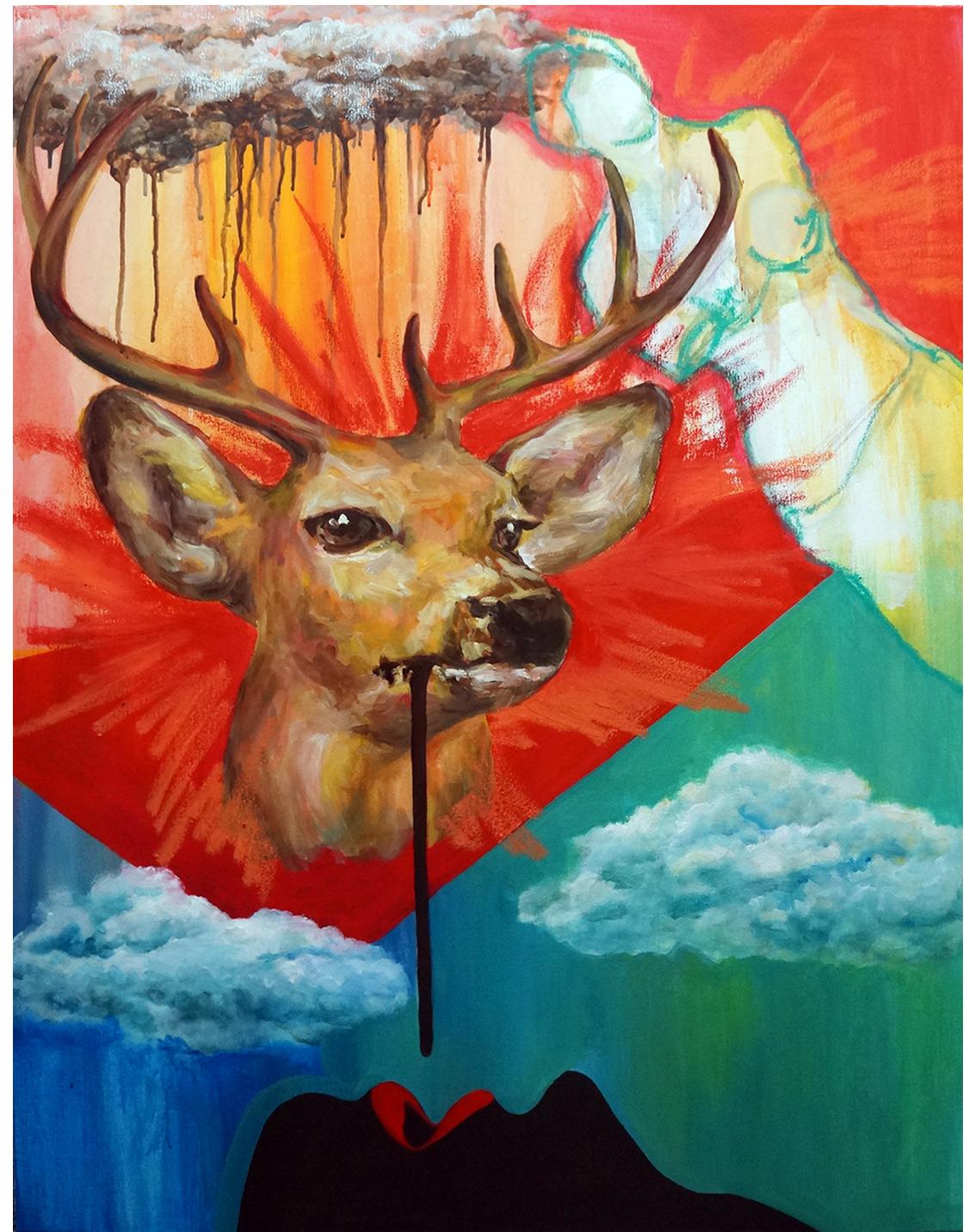
"A picture is worth a thousand words" Here are the paintings of my reflection on favorite food. I started with color pencils for drawing, and painted mostly with acrylics. I then made a final touch with oil paint sticks.



Ji Young Chun\_Boon-sick party  
2014. Acrylic and oil stick on canvas. 30 x 40 inch



Ji Young Chun\_Mingle  
2014. Acrylic and oil stick on canvas. 30 x 40 inch



Ji Young Chun\_Brown-wash  
2014. Acrylic and oil stick on canvas. 30 x 40 inch

2014 Visual Arts Capstone  
Duke University

Ji Young Chun

Thanks to

Merrill Shatzman  
Ava Lowrey