SCHOLASTIC art

ASIAN ART TODAY
Working With Ideas

Special Feature on Do Ho Suh
ART NEWS AND NOTES
New Feature! Read about how artists everywhere are finding new tools of expression.

DEBATE
Shepard Fairey: Cool or Crook? This artist is being sued for copyright infringement. We want to hear what you think!

SPOTLIGHT ON...
Do Ho Suh Meet a contemporary Korean artist who is bringing Eastern and Western ideas together.

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...
Do Ho Suh A handy, at-a-glance overview of the artist's life and work.

ASIAN CONNECTIONS
Warriors Then and Now Take a look back at the importance of the soldier as a subject of Asian art.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

GREAT ART JOBS

JUST FOR FUN

The Invisible Man

Look carefully at the photograph on the right. Can you spot the man hidden among the graffiti? That's the artist Liu Bolin.

Liu is from China. In 2005, the Chinese government shut down Liu's art studio. The artist says losing his studio made him feel invisible. It also gave him an idea for a unique way to express his feelings and protest the government's action.

Liu took a series of photographs of himself camouflaged into his surroundings. As much as 10 hours of painting and posing went into each photograph to get it exactly right. Liu's silent protest gained a lot of attention. He is definitely not invisible anymore!

Chinese artist Liu Bolin made a series of 'camouflage' photographs. The artist really disappears into his work.
SCULPTURE

Chew on This

The next time your teacher tells you to spit your gum in the trash, you might consider saving it instead. The chewed-up gum could come in handy for an art project. Gum is actually Italian artist Maurizio Savini’s (ma · REET · zee · oh seh · VEE · nee) favorite medium.

Savini creates giant sculptures out of chewed bubble gum. The artist explains his process, “I work the chewing gum when it is warm and mold it with a knife.” Working with gum is similar to modeling with clay. Once he finishes sculpting, Savini uses a chemical to clean and preserve the sculptures.

Savini's bright-pink creations are detailed and fun. They include a bear, an alligator, and the porcupine on the left.

ITALIAN ARTIST
Maurizio Savini sculpted this porcupine from chewed bubble gum.

COMIC ART

Action Comics No. 1 Sales, 1938-2010

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Check out the line graph at left. How much did Action Comics No. 1 increase in value from 1938 to 2010?

Up, Up, and Away!

Old comic books can be worth a lot of cash. Recently the first issue featuring Superman, which originally cost a dime, sold for $1 million. The following week, the first issue featuring Batman sold for $1,075,500.
FASHION DESIGN

All Duct Out

You might not think of duct tape as a medium for high fashion or great art. A growing number of teens want to change that—and you might just see them at your senior prom.

Duct tape prom outfits are a big fashion trend at high schools around the country. Rather than shop at stores for regular prom clothes, crafty teens are using the colorful tape to create one-of-a-kind prom outfits they will remember forever.

There is even a contest sponsored by Duck brand duct tape. The couple that makes the best prom outfit will win scholarships for college. To find out more, visit stuckatprom.com.

The Mocha Lisa

For a recent coffee festival in Australia, a group of artists recreated Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa—using cups of coffee. This massive coffee portrait measured 20 feet high and 13 feet wide. It used 3,604 cups of coffee and 564 pints of milk. Each cup was filled with different amounts of coffee and milk to get the shading just right. It took about three hours for a team of eight to complete it.

"I hate to say it - but, my cat could do better."
INSTALLATION

Ready, Set, OK Go
For their latest music video, the band OK Go built a huge moving work of installation art

The video begins with a close-up of band member Tim Nordwind wearing a splattered painter’s suit. He puts on a pair of safety goggles, then rolls a toy pickup truck across the floor. It crashes into a set of dominoes. Then the music kicks in.

This is the opening to the video for "This Too Shall Pass," by the band OK Go. The band is known for making viral music videos such as "Here It Goes Again."

For the new video, the band transformed a two-story warehouse into a Rube Goldberg machine, where the movement of each part sets off a chain reaction. The machine includes a swinging hammer, a falling piano, and firing paint cannons. The action, direction, scale, and focal points are all coordinated to the beat of the music.

Lead singer Damien Kulash says that to attempt such a big project, "you have to be a little crazy, have a lot of time, and be really, really patient." You also have to know how to make it work. For that, the band hired a team of engineers to put the contraption together.

Director James Frost used a Steadicam to film the video in one unedited shot. Every movement had to be timed precisely—and had to work perfectly. "I don’t think any of us knew how much work it would be," says Kulash. After 50 takes and two days of filming, the band had its music video—and an amazing work of art.

The band OK Go (above) built a Rube Goldberg machine (top right) for their latest music video. See how the band uses line, shape, color, and space in these scenes from the video (right).

VIDEO LINK: See the music video at our new Web site! scholastic.com/art
Artist Shepard Fairey is being sued for copyright infringement.

“I am fighting to protect the rights of all artists.”
—Shepard Fairey
Shepard Fairey: Cool or Crook?

This artist made one of the most famous campaign posters in the world. He may also be a criminal. Read about the case and decide for yourself.

Before the 2008 presidential campaign, Shepard Fairey was known mostly for making street art. Then he created the famous Obama “Hope” poster. The poster made Fairey an art celebrity. It also got him into legal trouble.

Fairey is being sued for copyright infringement. He may also face criminal charges for allegedly lying in court and faking evidence. The case centers on a photograph taken by Mannie Garcia. Fairey based his poster on Garcia’s photo—and he didn’t ask permission to use it.

Fairey found Garcia’s photo online. Garcia says, “I was disappointed that someone was able to go on the Internet and take something that doesn’t belong to them.” Garcia works for the news agency The Associated Press (AP). He and the AP believe they should be paid for use of the photo.

Fairey argues that he changed the image and made it into something new. He thinks he shouldn’t have to pay. Legally, this practice is based on the principle of “fair use.” Fairey says, “The poster has a different purpose than the photograph does.” The point of the photograph was to report the news, while “the point of the poster is to convince and inspire,” says Fairey.

Garcia and the AP took the case to court. At first, Fairey said he used a different photograph. Then he admitted the truth. Fairey said he mistakenly thought he used a different photo and then tried to cover up his mistake. Lying to the court could land Fairey in jail.

However, Fairey stands by his position. “Regardless of which of the two images was used, the fair use issue should be the same,” he says.

Yes

Fairey should be allowed to use the photo without paying. Here’s why:

- Fairey turned the photo into something new.
- His poster is different from the photograph.
- Artists borrow from each other all the time. They shouldn’t have to worry about being sued.
- Fairey’s lie doesn’t make a difference. No matter what photo he used, he used it fairly.

No

Fairey should not be allowed to use the photo without paying. Here’s why:

- Garcia is an artist too. He took a great photo and he should be paid for his work.
- Fairey didn’t ask permission to use the photograph. In legal terms he stole the image.
- Fairey lied about which photograph he used. He must have known he was in the wrong.
Do Ho Suh
Bringing Eastern ideas to Western spaces

What do you make of the work on the cover, or the giant glittering figure on the right? Contemporary South Korean artist Do Ho Suh builds room-size works of art that surround the viewer. The ideas for his huge installations come from the artist’s early life in Asia. But the spectacular visual images he creates from these ideas can be understood by anyone, Eastern or Western. In most Eastern cultures, karma means that what a person does now—good or bad—determines what will happen to that person in the future. The work above is titled Karma. In it, two giant legs stride across the room, ready to crush the tiny figures fleeing from them. How might this image express the concept of karma? What kind of karma do these people seem to have? And what could they possibly have done in the past to deserve such a fate?

Suh, one of the most well-known artists to come out of Asia, divides his time between Korea and his new home in New York City. He creates his art in order to bring people into the fantastic worlds of his imagination. Installations like Karma and Some/One (right) dwarf and overwhelm the viewer. But look closely and you'll see that each work—large as it is—is made up of many tiny pieces repeated over and over. One of the secrets behind the power of Suh’s visions comes from the artist’s creative use of repetition and variation.

Life in South Korea

Suh was born in the capital city of Seoul (Seoul). He wanted to be a marine biologist. But his 11th-grade art teacher recognized his talent and encouraged him to go to art school. After graduation, Suh was drafted into the army, then moved to the U.S. to study at the Rhode Island School of Design. It was there the artist’s career began—but only by chance. A painting class he wanted to take was filled and, “the only thing open was this sculpture course. I didn’t want to take it, but luckily I did. It changed my life.”

It was in this class that Suh began creating sculptures based on his army experiences. The last in the series became one of his best-known works, Some/One.

Some/One

This nine-foot-tall work fills several rooms. Glittering concentric metal circles radiate around the figure, covering the floor like a flowing robe of armor. Only when one is close is it possible to see that these overlapping, identical metal shapes are actually army dog tags.

This hollow, ghostlike figure, closed in the back, open in front and covered with dog tags suggests Korea’s military history. Suh says, “From the minute you’re born, you know you’re going in the army. Every boy has to go, usually right after high school.” Many thousands of seemingly identical soldiers give their lives to protect a nation. But the dog tags that make up Suh’s work remind us that each of these losses is a separate and unique person.

“My work is about my identity as a Korean in the United States.”
—Do Ho Suh
"To create Some/One, I wanted the viewer to have to step on and feel each little dog tag that stands for an individual person's identity... and to understand how many of them it takes to make up this one larger-than-life figure."

—De Ho Suh
Spotlight

Soldier Who Dropped From the Sky

“"I was so afraid when I landed in the U.S. for the first time— I felt I had to hang on to everything and everyone I knew.” —Do Ho Suh

When Do Ho Suh moved to this country to study art, everything in his life changed. He didn't know anyone or, as he puts it, "belong anywhere." To express this feeling, the artist created a dramatic, room-size installation he called Paratrooper-I. This work, a kind of self-portrait, also reflects Suh's experiences in the army. In it, he imagines himself as a paratrooper who has been dropped from a plane into an unknown enemy territory. The only thing that saves him is a beautiful red parachute. He opens it and floats to earth, then quickly gathers it up, perhaps to use again.

In this work the artist has represented himself as a shiny metal soldier. At first, Suh's use of active diagonal shapes gives the impression that the soldier is in complete control of the situation. His strong, solid, closed shape pulls together the thousands of long, thin, openly spaced red lines that make up the parachute. And, just as the parachute saved him as he fell from the sky, it now provides the paratrooper with life-saving human connections. Each of the 3,000 tiny red strings that form the parachute stretches across the room to end in the signature of a significant person in his life.

Like life-giving blood vessels, these repeated and expanding red strings tie the figure to the names of people who are important to him. This vital lifeline gives the artist energy and allows him to survive in a hostile land. The signatures, none of which touch one another, are sewn into a circular pattern on the opposite wall that echoes the convex shape of the parachute.
The Outsider  "I was good at many things in the army. I was a sharpshooter, I had a black belt, and I could run really fast. I felt I could survive anything... and yet, I was so afraid when I landed in this new country."

Lifelines  "In this work, the isolated figure of the paratrooper gains his strength from the red parachute he holds. The parachute is made up of lifelines that connect him to all the important people in his life."

Family & Friends  "Each of the lifelines ends in the name of a person who has been meaningful in my life. The signatures sewn into the wall stand for the love, help, and thoughts these people have given me."
**Paratrooper-I**

by Do Ho Suh

“If there’s no parachute, then the soldier dies. And when he lands, he has to fight in alien territory. That’s how I felt when I came to the United States.”

—Do Ho Suh

*Paratrooper-I, 2009, iron, enameled thread, wood, various sheets, paper, and vinyl, 151 x 170 x 29 cm. Collection of Solomon and Bandi Suh, New York.*

*Courtesy of the Artist and PaceWildenstein, New York.*
Five Things to Know About Do Ho Suh

1. Born in 1962 in South Korea
Suh was born 12 years after the start of the Korean War (1950-1953), which divided Korea into two. Even today, there is tension between South Korea and North Korea. All South Korean men are required to serve in the military.
Suh served for two years. From what you've read in this issue, how do you think Suh's life experience has affected his art?

2. Makes Installation Art
Suh's art surrounds the viewer and changes the space. Often this kind of art can be heard or touched as well as seen. The viewer feels Suh's installation Some/One (below) by walking on top of it to see it from the front.
3
Most Famous Work:
Floor, 1997

Tiny figures pop up an entire glass floor. This piece shows the power people have when they work together.


4
Connects Korean and American Cultures
Our world is interconnected. It is easy to click a mouse or hop a plane to visit people across the globe.

This connection allows Suh to live in two cities a world apart—New York City and Seoul, South Korea. In some of the artist's works, such as Floor (top of page), these connections are positive. Other installations, such as Falling Star (above), suggest a violent clash of Eastern and Western cultures.

5
Suh's advice to anyone who wants to become an artist:

"Being an artist is very difficult... It is important to remember to have fun while making art."

APRIL/MAY 2010 • SCHOLASTIC ART 15
Warriors Then and Now

To create *Some/One*, Do Ho Suh followed a long-established visual tradition found in Asian art, that of the fierce and heroic warrior.

6th-Century Japan
Some of the earliest Asian warrior images were the simple unglazed clay sculptures—called Haniwa—modeled by 6th-century Japanese and Chinese sculptors. Rows of armored, cone-shape soldiers like this one were set around the edges of an emperor’s tomb to send him on his way and guard his spirit during its eternal rest.

16th-Century Korea
This heroic statue of Admiral Yi Sun-shin—a 16th-century naval commander who saved Korea from Japanese invaders—towers over the crowds who fill the central square of modern Seoul. Standing on top of a tall pedestal, the admiral’s solid, symmetrical (same on both sides), conical shape can be seen from many parts of the city. His armor looks very similar to the dog-tag robe in *Some/One*. Do Ho Suh says, “Koreans come up to me to say how much *Some/One* reminds them of Admiral Yi’s statue.”
19th-Century Japan
The term “samurai” was first used to describe the soldiers who guarded 12th-century Japanese emperors. The power of the samurai increased until they became Japan’s ruling class. Stars of the Asian warrior tradition, samurai followed a strict code of conduct based on loyalty, honor, and duty. They became favorite subjects for 18th-century Japanese woodcut artists such as Shuntai Katsukawa (shoon-tay kat-soo-kah-wah), who created this print. The artist’s use of clashing patterns, complex shapes, and tight cropping makes this figure appear to burst out of the frame.

21st-Century North Korea
Tension between North Korea and South Korea continues today, as you can see from this photo of a North Korean soldier guarding the border between the two countries. The multiple sets of intersecting diagonals created by the rifle, its crossed straps, the figure’s pose and his pointing finger heighten the image’s message of drama and danger.
Looking Through a Doll’s Eyes

Like Do Ho Suh, Scholastic Art Award Winner Yoojung Park sculpts figures to represent people in her world

When 18-year-old Yoojung Park arrived from Seoul, South Korea, to study fine art at Michigan’s Interlochen Academy two years ago, she was looking for a challenge. “I was bored,” says Yoojung, currently a junior at the school. “Korean schools mainly teach drawing and watercolor painting. I wanted to work with all kinds of materials. That’s why I came to study art in the United States.”

At Interlochen, Yoojung has worked with materials ranging from ceramics to metals. But her favorite art form is making dolls like her award-winning self-portrait featured on the right. Yoojung plans to pursue an art career when she graduates. “I want to travel the world to visit great museums and meet other artists,” she says. “It would give me a better idea of what I could accomplish.”

How did you first get involved in art? When I was really little, I was pretty bad at drawing. My second-grade teacher told my mother I needed some extra help, and they both encouraged me by giving me crayons, paper, and ideas. After a while, I gained confidence and art became fun.

What inspired your award-winning piece? For my first art project at Interlochen, I was allowed to create anything I wanted. I had no clue where to even start. When I told my art teacher that I collect dolls, she suggested I use my hobby in my art project. That’s when I decided to create a doll that looks like me.
What do dolls mean to you? Dolls give me a chance to experience other worlds and cultures. Some dolls wear amazing clothes designed for runway models. I could never wear those clothes, but I can visit this fashion fantasy world through my dolls.

Aside from looking like you, how does your doll express who you are?
The doll's facial expression reflects my personality: She's a shy observer who's interested in the world around her and will jump in when she's ready. The doll is also wearing an Interlochen school uniform, which is the perfect outfit, since studying in the United States has opened a new chapter in my life.

What other ideas does your doll express?
Although South Korean culture is different from American culture, I wanted to show how students in both countries are actually very much alike. We wear similar clothes, listen to the same music, watch the same movies, and have similar interests. My doll looks like it could feel comfortable living in both Korea and America.

How did you create your doll?
It was a really elaborate process that took about three months. First, I drew a rough sketch and a detailed plan that showed how the pieces would fit together. After that, I carved the pieces out of Styrofoam and covered them with craft clay. Before the clay dried completely, I carved tiny details into the doll's face, fingers, and feet. Then I connected the joints to the body parts with rubber bands.

What did you do next? I used acrylic paint to lay down a skin tone and colored pencils and watercolor to bring out the facial features. I made the eyes separately, painted them, covered them with clear nail polish, and glued them into place.

I saved clothes and attached them with Velcro. I cut a wig into my hairstyle and glued it onto the doll's head. I attached shoes to the doll's feet and painted her toenails. With that final touch, I was done.

Were you satisfied with the finished piece? Yes! I feel that in this project I was able to bring together the best parts of my art training. Korean schools are really helpful in teaching basic art skills like drawing and painting. My Korean training helped me to build a sketch for my work and turn my ideas into reality. American schools teach ways to explore ideas. Brainstorming with other students and getting advice from teachers helped me bring my work to another level.

Do you have any advice for aspiring artists like yourself?
Be open-minded and experiment with as many different ideas and materials as you can. Challenging myself to try new things made me a better artist.

Yooung Park’s award-winning piece.

“When I told my art teacher that I collect dolls, she suggested I use my hobby in my art project. That's when I decided to create a doll that looks like me.”
—Yooung Park

Yooung's doll self-portrait won a National Gold Award in the 2009 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. To find out more about this program, ask your teacher to call 212-943-6882, or go to www.scholastic.com/artandwriting.
Sculpt Your Story

Use figures to show how the important people in your life are connected.

You've seen how Do Ho Suh used small figures to explore ideas about how people are connected. For this workshop, you'll create your own sculpture using clay figures.

**STEP 1  Brainstorm Your Ideas**

Make a list of people who are important to you. You might list family members, friends, classmates, people in your community, or even famous people. Write notes about how you are connected to the people and what they mean to you. **TIP:** Choose people who have had a big impact on your life.

**STEP 2  Sketch Out Your Design**

Brainstorm ways you might use clay figures to represent the people you chose. Think about what kind of surroundings you might place the figures in. Sketch out four different sculpture ideas. Try showing different ways to connect the figures or make one stand out from the crowd. Consider the scale of the figures in relation to their surroundings and each other. Choose your favorite idea, and decide which materials you want to use. **TIP:** Consider scale when choosing your materials. For example, modeling clay might not be a good choice for large elements.
STEP 3 Build Your Sculpture

Put your ideas into action! Use air-dry modeling clay to sculpt your figures. Then use foam core, wood scraps, papier mâché, or other materials to build the rest of your sculpture. Decide whether to apply color before or after gluing down elements. Consider ways you might use color to group elements together, or set them apart. For example, Natalie used paint to make her smaller figures blend in with her piano, (above, right) and to set her larger pink figure apart. TIP: The little details make a big difference. Pay attention to craftsmanship.

➔ Natalie’s Sculpture
Natalie sculpted a piano with a figure of herself sitting on top. The figures on the piano keys represent other musicians. Natalie’s sculpture shows how Natalie feels most on top of things when she is surrounded by people who share her passion for music.

➔ Lilya’s Sculpture
Lilya chose to make a sculpture about her connection to her friends. She used a butterfly to represent the beauty and freedom of friendship. Lilya exaggerated the butterfly’s scale and included figures that represent her and her friends.

➔ Max’s Sculpture
Max made figures to represent himself, his father, and his dog. He placed them on top of blocks representing buildings. The sculpture shows how Max’s family has taught him to look at the world from different perspectives.
**CROSSWORD**

**Solve the Issue!**
Use facts from the stories inside to solve the crossword puzzle.

**ACROSS**
3  Liu Bolin is sometimes called The ___ Man.
4  Kim Dcil animated this movie.
5  One of Do Ho Suh's most famous works.
6  Poster artist being sued for copyright infringement.
8  Country where Do Ho Suh was born.

**DOWN**
1  Yojuung Park sculpts these.
2  Type of art Do Ho Suh is known for making.
7  Artist Maurizio Savini creates sculptures out of this.

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**MYSTERY PHOTO**

Can you tell what is happening in this picture?

Hint: Look at the rest of the issue!