

PRINT-INTERESTING

STUDIO VISIT: KAKYOUNG LEE

Posted by Yoonmi Nam on December 1, 2013 | 2 Comments



Kakyoungh in her studio

Kakyoungh Lee is a Korean artist based in Brooklyn, New York. I have known her since we were both first-year college students in the printmaking department at Hong-Ik University in Seoul, Korea. 20 years later, somehow we both ended up in the US, and are still making prints. I admit, I am getting a bit nostalgic, and even though Kakyoungh and I both live in the US, it had been years since I saw her. So, when I recently made a trip to New York City for a few days, I called her up and spent an afternoon with Kakyoungh in her studio in the Red Hook area of Brooklyn.



Kakyoungh's cozy studio space is filled with stacks of prints, small video

installations, and set-ups for works in progress. Below are two small temporary installations in Kakyoung's studio. The one on the right, titled *Window View* is a projection onto a window drawn on the wall with graphite. Close up, you can see crowds of people, busily walking in Grand Central Terminal.



Kakyoung Lee: Window View

Kakyoung Lee

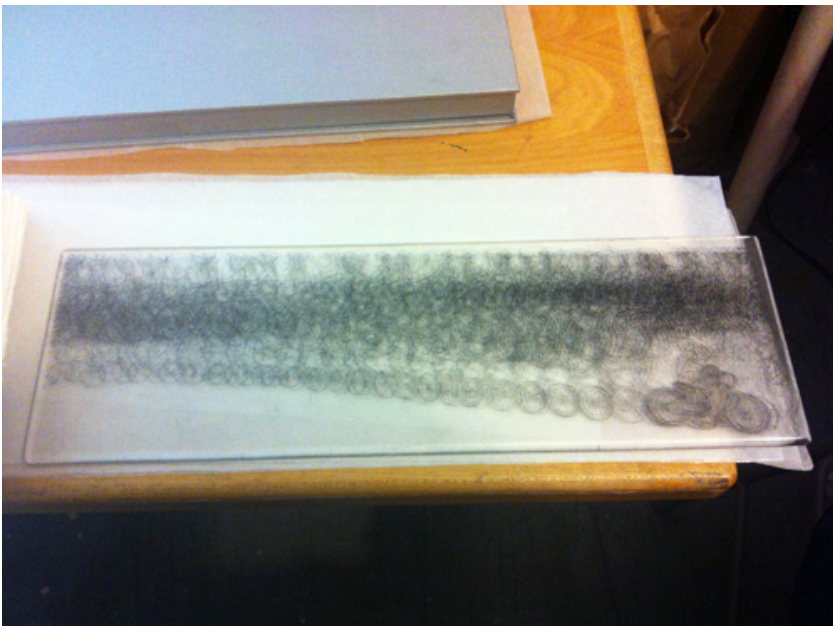
Kakyoung first captures everyday, mundane events in video. She then deconstructs them into stills and laboriously translates them into drypoint prints or drawings, which are reconstructed into short animated videos.



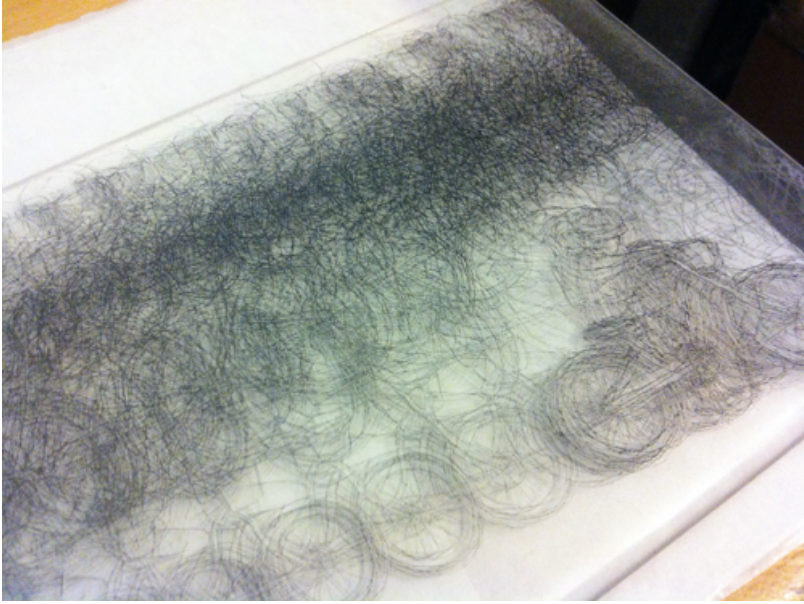
I was delighted to see one of her newest works in progress titled *Hana's Ride*. The process of this work began with video footage taken of Kakyoung's daughter, Hana, learning to ride a bike. This video footage had been broken down into several sequences of moments in preparation for tracing. Using drypoint, each frame of *Hana's Ride* is scratched onto a thick sheet of Plexi and then printed, resulting in 327 prints.



The plan for the animation



Drypoint on Plexi



Close up of the drypoint on Plexi



Hardworking little press



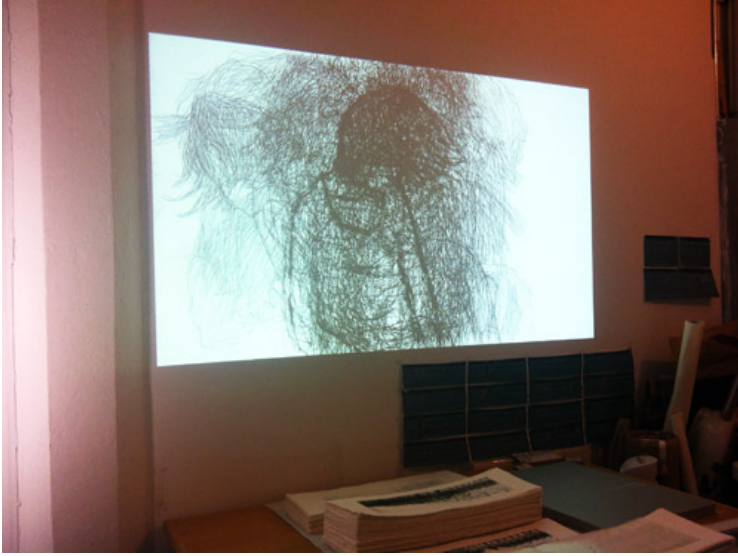
Stacks of prints for animation



An installation view of prints from "Hana's Ride"

And here is a short preview of Kakyoung's new animation *Hana's Ride*.

All of her animated prints require several hundred printed images in order to make an animation that lasts a minute or two. Her videos are often installed alongside of the actual prints that made the animations. I got to have a little private viewing of her animated prints, and here are some of my favorites!



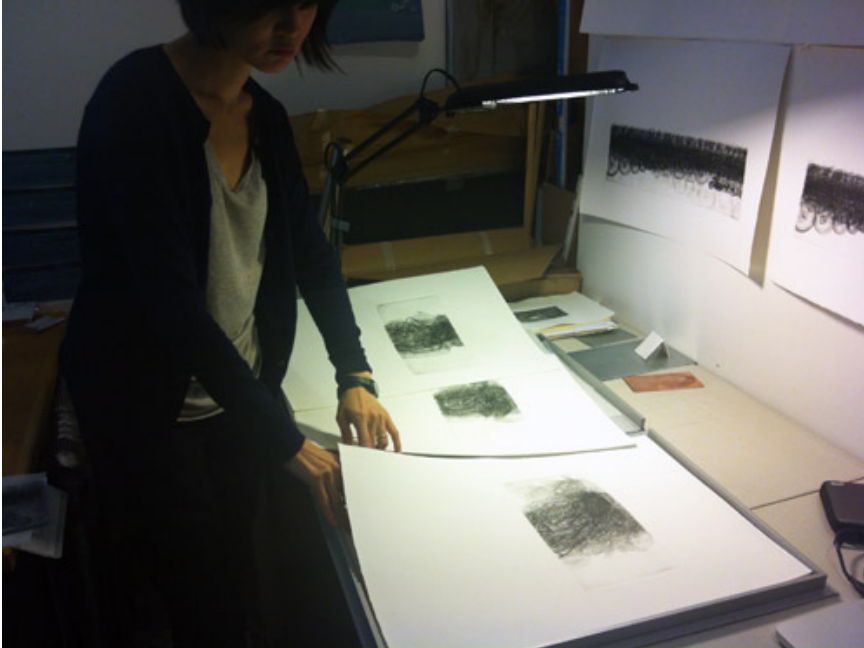
Viewing “Dance, Dance, Dance,” in Kakyoungh’s studio

Kakyoungh Lee: Dance, Dance, Dance, Kakyoungh Lee

[Vimeo](#)

This piece titled *Dance, Dance, Dance*, is a collaboration with sound artist Natacha Diels. It was also made into a beautiful portfolio, which includes a selection of prints from the animation and a DVD.

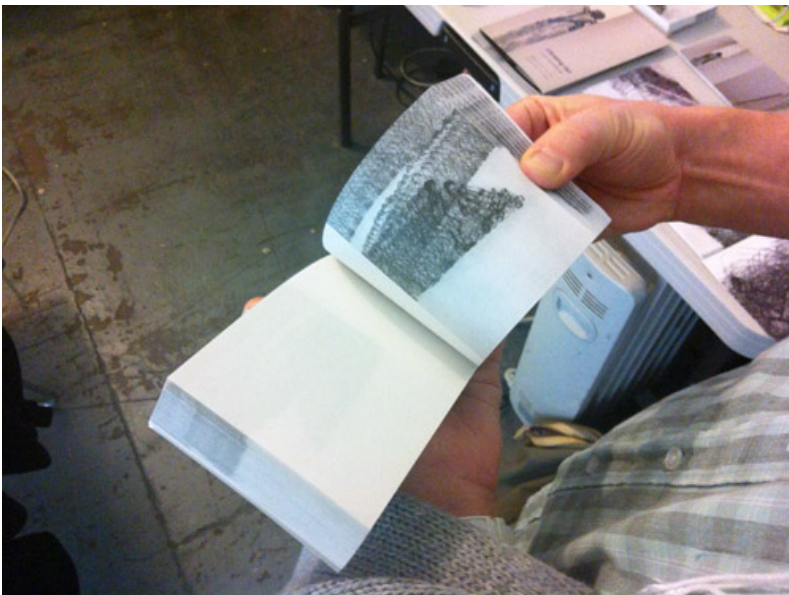




Another drypoint animation titled *Walk* featuring Kakyong and her two young daughters. It was also cleverly made into a beautiful flip book!

Kakyong Lee: *Walk* - 2010

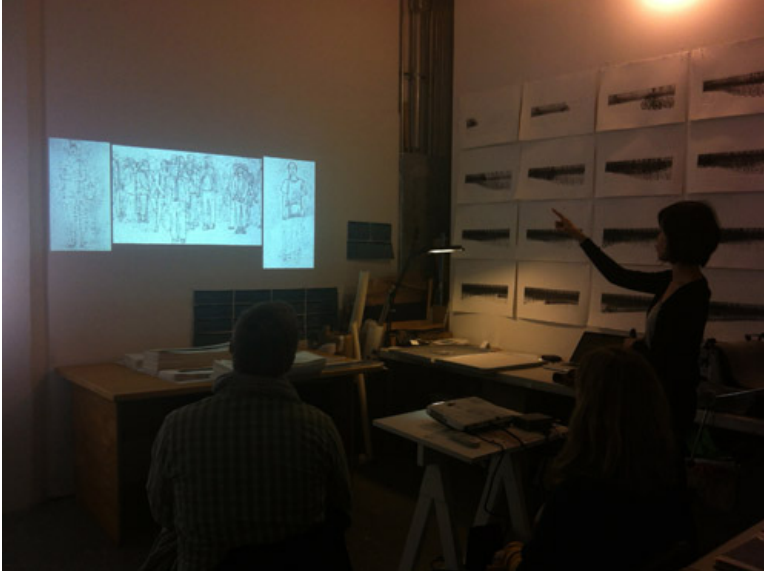
Kakyong Lee



“Walk” flip book

Some of her animations are made using graphite drawings, such as this one

titled *The Crossing Series*. Layers and layers of graphite drawings and erasings capture a brief moment as crowds of people wait to cross a street. Then people flood towards each other, and their movements create a web of drawn lines as they try to navigate through the crowd.



Viewing “The Crossing Series” in Kakyong’s studio

Kakyong Lee: The Crossing Series

Kakyong Lee



A little mock-up for the video installation

Kakyoung continuously explores and presents these moments in thoughtful and interesting ways.

Kakyoung Lee: Climbing Up - 2009

Kakyoung Lee

In this video, Kakyoung features her own family. Using images of herself along with her two little girls and the voice of her husband, she portrays a family trying to take a photograph. It is both intimate and endearing.

Kakyoung Lee: Family Portrait, 2009

[Vimeo](#)

Finally, in another corner of Kakyoung's studio, there is a set up for a new project in process. On the left wall, you can see photos and sketches for the planned animation, and the small spotlighted area on the right is where Kakyoung is repeatedly drawing and erasing sequences of images of people hiking up a mountain.




There are many more videos on Kakyoung's Vimeo site [here](#), and more prints, drawings, and installations can be seen on her website [here](#). Kakyoung is represented by Ryan Lee Gallery in New York.

Thanks for a wonderful afternoon, Kakyoung!

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2 RESPONSES TO "STUDIO VISIT: KAKYOUNG LEE"

1.  *luca cruzat* says: December 3, 2013 at 8:51 pm **Enjoyable post. Great work.**
2. *BreakThru Radio* says: November 25, 2014 at 6:54 am [...] little by little to reconstruct the "layers of everydayness".The rigorous, repetitive tracing method is crucial in Lee's mission to maintain an "objective" and "nonfiction" approach. Each piece takes [...]