



OH/Okamura Haji was born in Osaka in 1976. She received an M.A. from the Dyeing and Weaving Department of the Kyoto City University of Art in 2002. Her work has been shown in a number of solo and group exhibits, and she co-coordinated an exhibition of young artists of the Korean Diaspora, “Orientality,” in Kyoto (2004).

I have two names, Oh Haji and Okamura Natsue. In Japan, I am often asked which name I use. My Japanese family name, Okamura, was forced on us by history, and my Korean family name, Oh, is in our family tree. But both names are mine, so I use them both. I began to use them in public, with pride, eight years ago. I am both of these names.

散華

Sange, 2005

I use traditional Korean dress as a motif in my work because I can give expression to the layering of time and memory that go into the act of dyeing fabric. Worn on formal occasions, these garments are also an expression of my position in Japanese society. For a Korean resident like myself, wearing these garments means revealing my identity, and through using chima chogori and other Korean traditional dress in my work I can make my minority identity visible, as well as give expression to many hidden voices.

Where did she come from and where is she going? , 2002
Silk yarn, photography, ikat-weaving, and silkscreen.

For centuries, people and ideas, objects and techniques, have crossed the lands and seas of Asia. My works are rooted in traditional ethnic dress, and through them, I hope each viewer will feel the winds of Asia.

三つの花

Three flowers , 2004

My grandmother's hanbok, silk, cotton, with tie-dye, brush dyeing, and embroidery

This dress was made from the hanbok my grandmother once wore. I wonder what she thought when she wore it? My heart is filled with things I am unable to find words to express, so I carefully take it apart and stitch it together again, thinking of these things. At first white, embroidered with white flowers, I paint more flowers on the inside of the skirt, and then connect them all by embroidering with colored yarn.

