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Beyond The Canvas Plane by Jaena Kwon

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Crossing Art is delighted to announce the opening of **Beyond The Canvas Plane**, a solo exhibition featuring the renowned Korean American artist Jaena Kwon. Kwon arrived in Connecticut first in 2012 then in New York 2014 from South Korea and determined to deepen her practice of abstract painting. Her canvas has since been experimenting with texture and shape. The color of her works has been mainly in acrylic on light density fiberboard and oil on canvas. Going beyond the canvas, texture is a vitally important characteristic. Kwon's colored shapes display a tactile, almost sculptural texture in synchronization with color and form. Countless experiments in mixing paints led her to contemplate its viscosity and the relationship between this materiality and human flesh. While most art is optical, there is a haptic aspect to her oeuvre. From her point of view, interconnectedness with loved ones or support through touch is a huge comfort in such a dynamic, alienating city. Her experiences in New York (she maintains a studio in Brooklyn) were translated into her works through the medium of painting that is deployed in a sensual way, since she thinks it is the perfect material to render the human skin (a correlation that has served such artists as Lucian Freud, Lisa Yuskavage and Byron Kim). Kwon created folded shapes colored with acrylic paint to highlight the sensual and haptic characteristic of painting that can radiate the warmth of a human body standing next to another, and the kinesthetic, tactile memories from the presence of your loved ones. Inspired by the virtuosic textural of oil paint by the masters and the warm quality they achieved.

Kwon's process of translating a pure aesthetic value into reality is also a process of reflecting upon herself as her mind and body synchronize to make the art piece. Kwon's work is manually sanded down. Every surface has gone through the touch of her bare hands. She hopes that viewers can experience a sense of contact and affection through the visual-tactile interplay her work at one's own speed. The exhibition will be on view till February 23rd, 2020.

About Jaena Kwon

Jaena Kwon (b. 1986, South Korea) earned her MFA Painting and Printmaking at Yale University School of Art. Her work incorporates the elements of painting to go beyond the possibility of expanding the pictorial space of the flat surface. In her practice, folding and sanding is a way of expanding the surface and support structure of painting. Working with wood, light density fiberboard, gesso, acrylic, and pigments, she creates shaped work that achieves a fluid and haptic texture that heighten the logic of dimensions and psychological affect. Her work has been exhibited in numerous venues such as Tenri Cultural Institute (NY); Song Eun Art Space (Seoul); ING Art Project (Seoul) and many more.