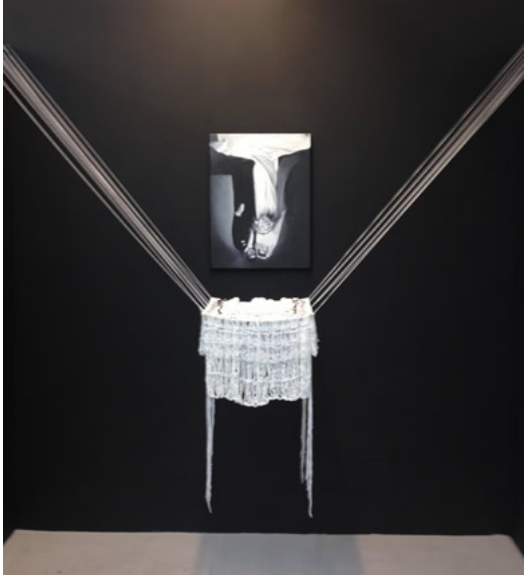


Lin-Lin Mao

ARTIST STATEMENT



The Art is in the Spoon? by Lin-Lin Mao, 2017. Acrylic on canvas, yarn, spoon, fork. Variable size: minimum of 20 inches wide

Lin-Lin Mao creates art not to illustrate but to discover. She does start with an idea to illustrate or represent, but it's the subliminal becoming superliminal, or the unintentional that becomes the surprise star of a piece that motivates her to create. She explores through art her interest in the nature of the human condition which we try to control versus the nature of the universe which we cannot control. What she discovers during the creating process are new ways of seeing things emotionally, intellectually or visually. Her work uses a mixture of symbolism, metaphors, and materials which each person will interpret in their own way and hopefully discover something new about themselves or the world.

Lin-Lin Mao works in 2-dimensional and multi-dimensional spaces and sees painting as the act of putting marks onto or into a space. A mark could be a strand of yarn, a loop of crochet, an origami crane, or a dirty plate from last night's dinner. Lin-Lin's art work invites a viewer to investigate and discover, and to

interpret the work in their own way with what they bring to the conversation. Her multi-dimensional "paintings" use human scaled rooms so that viewers can move around to investigate the work from different perspectives.

Lin-Lin uses crochet in her work to elevate the status of "women's work". Crochet has for too long been seen as a craft, a lesser artform than painting or sculpture. Thanks to artists like Tracey Emin and Sheila Hicks who use textiles and yarn in their work this view is changing. Lin-Lin uses crochet instead of knitting because currently no machine exists that can replicate hand crochet. Perhaps crochet is a human skill and artform that a machine will never be able to replicate.

When Lin-Lin started the piece titled "Mandala Reigns" she was questioning the nature of the universe. She added symbolism such as a crocheted mandala. The mandala is the Buddhist symbol for the universe. And she chose yarn in colors of the visible spectrum to represent the limits of human senses to ever have a complete understanding of the universe. However, the gift of the piece was not its intended representation but what it revealed. It revealed the beauty of moving colors as the strands of yarn slowly moved in the air as viewers walked around it.

In "The Art is in the Spoon?" Lin-Lin is questioning how things are defined. Are they defined by form or function? Can a doily with 4 legs be called a table or does it need to be able to hold objects? Can a spoon's reflection be considered the artwork? Viewers of the piece had their own interpretations such as a struggling marriage or a scene of domesticity with sprouts on a plate. The experience of discovery, of deeper understanding, is why Lin-Lin Mao creates art.



Mandala Reigns by Lin-Lin Mao, 2017. Yarn, 130 inches wide, 56 inches deep, 84 inches tall.