

Artwork auction to benefit affordable workspace for NYC artists

nextnewyorkers.com/artists-put-their-work-up-for-auction-to-benefit-affordable-work-space/

by Sara O'Brien"



Mirage – watercolor gouache on rice paper by Suyeon Na

chashama has been helping emerging artists find their footing in New York City for the past 19 years. [The non-profit launched in 1995](#) and, with the help of generous property owners, has been activating vacant property throughout the city, turning them into art hubs.

“As all New Yorkers know, rent fees are highly expensive here,” said [Suyeon Na](#). “My having studio space at such an affordable cost wouldn’t be possible without their support.”

Na, 33, who was born and raised in Seoul, Korea, moved to New York in 2007. She earned her MFA from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. She was planning on going back to Korea after she graduated but then felt an urge to “start making art again in a totally new place.” She’s been involved with the nonprofit since 2009.

chashama gives artists like Na discounted workspaces, as well as holds free public events where New Yorkers can view the original works of up and coming artists – and even curates office lobbies (think: the Conde Nast building, the Bank of American tower) throughout the city with their artists' works.

Na said her first residency was in 2009 through chashama – she got a studio with a large window and beautiful scenery. In 2010, she was granted a studio at the chashama location at the Brooklyn Army Terminal. Since, she has had her first solo show in NYC at a chashama gallery and has participated in group shows and events.

And tomorrow, 4/23, marks the final day of chashama's first ever auction in collaboration with [auction site Paddle8](#).

Na is auctioning off her work entitled, "Drifting Flowers."

"I drew young naked girls who are drifting by hanging from jellyfish, beautiful but deadly animals," she explained. "My drawing is often from personal experience and observation...I like to transform mundane spaces that most people accept as commonplace, to find new meanings and beauty in them."

In New York, she feels she has a freedom to do what she truly wants.

"Many people in Korea tend to strongly believe there is the same right track for each person's life; going to top colleges, having good jobs, getting married and having kids at certain ages," Na explained. "People think if you choose a different path, then you will be easily marginalized in society...I felt that it seemed impossible to choose or keep doing what I loved and wanted because of others' expectations and standards in my homeland."



Watching TV show – watercolor gouache on rice paper by Suyeon Na



Welcome – acrylic on wood panel by Suyeon Na



River flows – watercolor gouache collage on Somerset paper by Suyeon Na

By Sara Ashley O'Brien