



PRATT SHOW 2026 · UNDERGRADUATE COMMUNICATIONS DESIGN

A Home of One's Choosing

Women, Thresholds, and Self-Determined Belonging

Ashlee Oh

A Quiet Door

This project reinterprets Korean minhwa and ink-wash visual language to imagine women's freedom, movement, and self-chosen belonging. Doors open. Paths begin. The sun and the moon mark time. A woman stands inside a much larger world, and chooses where to go.



Detail — A Home of One's Choosing

On Choosing a Home

A Home of One's Choosing reinterprets the visual language of traditional East Asian painting — especially Korean minhwa and ink-wash color painting — to explore women's dreams, freedom, movement, and self-determination.

The project began with personal desires: to leave, to rest, to move, and to live in a direction chosen by the self rather than assigned by others. Through the work, these private feelings expand into a broader reflection on the quiet wishes carried by women across generations.

In the images, doors, paths, water, mountains, trees, the sun, and the moon appear not simply as scenery, but as symbols of transition, choice, emotional expansion, and imagined freedom. The female figure is often small within the landscape — not weakness, but a person standing before a larger world of possibility.

The project redefines the idea of home. Rather than a fixed physical place, home becomes a psychological and emotional state: a space where one can exist without suppression and continue to shape a life through one's own choices.

Redefining Home

Home is the word the project keeps returning to — not as a building, but as a condition of being. In this body of work, home is the moment when a person can exist without suppression, and continue choosing the direction of her own life.

Many of the images contain a threshold: a door, a step, a small boat about to leave the shore, a balloon already drifting. The figure does not look back. She is small inside the landscape, but the landscape is hers.

“A home of one’s choosing” names this quiet act: deciding, on one’s own terms, where belonging begins.



Detail — Sky Crossing

From Folding Screen to Page

The work is rooted in Korean *minhwa* — painting once made for everyday houses, full of symbolic creatures, decorative borders, and bright color. Alongside *minhwa*, ink-wash color painting (*sumuk-damchae*) offers the soft, watery transitions and folding-screen compositions that run through every piece.

Each image is built on *hanji*-wrapped wooden panel and sized with *nikawa*, the traditional animal-glue ground. The *saekdong* palette — ochres, deep reds, greens and blues — returns again and again.



Sumuk-damchae landscape



Saekdong — traditional palette

Seven Symbols

● *Doors & Thresholds*

Moments of decision and movement between worlds.

● *Paths & Roads*

The possibility of departure and change.

● *Water*

Emotional movement, transformation, and flow.

● *Mountains*

Distance, longing, and inner expansion.

● *Trees & Nature*

Shelter, growth, and the landscape of the self.

● *Sun & Moon*

Time, guidance, desire, and imagination.

● *Home*

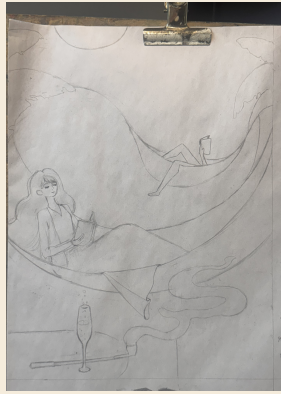
Not a fixed place, but a state of self-directed belonging.

How Each Painting Begins

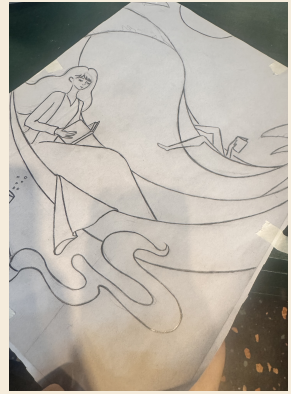
Each painting starts as a small private desire — a woman fishing, a woman climbing, a woman lying still. It is sketched, refined in line, then painted in pigment and nikawa on hanji-wrapped panel.



Sketch — ascending



Sketch — boat



Sketch — hammock



Hake brush on hanji



Nikawa preparation



Hanji-wrapped panel



A Home of One's Choosing

Ink, mineral pigment & gouache on hanji-mounted panel



Crossing

Rest as movement — a sea of one's own.



Sky Crossing

Minhwa companions — crane, deer, turtle.



Open Landscape

A picnic for one.



Moonlit City

The moon as witness.



Rest by Water

Permission to do nothing.

AN INVITATION

Four Questions

What kind of world have I inherited?

How far am I allowed to go?

What does home mean to me?

What would it mean to choose belonging for myself?



View the full project
ashleeh.art



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