

STEPHANIE S. LEE

THE TWELVE



JULY 2 - 29, 2023
RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

125 N. Maple Ave. Ridgewood, NJ 07450

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THE

Stephanie S. Lee's Solo Exhibition

TWELVE

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Stephanie S. Lee's solo exhibition, 'The Twelve,' is inspired by the Korean cultural concept of 'Shibijisin,' which symbolizes time, cardinal directions, and the role it plays in safeguarding human happiness and well-being. The exhibition features 12 animals, including the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig, representing each individual's birth year and encompassing various aspects of human existence.

The artist reinterprets this traditional motif by merging it with contemporary symbols such as diamonds and the *ouroboros*. This combination conveys the message that we all possess the spirit of warriors and guardians who endure life's repetitive routines and challenges, akin to the unyielding strength of diamonds. In the never-ending cycle of daily life, each and every one of us is a warrior and guardian, striving our best day by day without losing hope.

Furthermore, the artist aims to unravel the layers of meaning inherent in the universal symbolism of the number 12, fostering a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of diverse cultures and histories. Through creative endeavors that transcend boundaries, the exhibition seeks to enrich the human experience by promoting profound appreciation and the sharing of the richness of cultural diversity and history.

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