Exhibition Title: ***The Twelve***
Artist Name: **Stephanie S. Lee**
Exhibition Date: **7/2 – 7/29/2023** (Library closes on Tuesday, July 4th.)
Location: The Ridgewood Public Library
125 N. Maple Ave. Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Hours: The Ridgewood public library auditorium is available for viewing during normal business hours unless there is an event. Please call the library before visiting to confirm that the exhibit is available for viewing at a specific time: 201-670-5600 (ext.130)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie S. Lee Presents 'The Twelve' Exhibition: Exploring Cultural Symbolism and Diversity at Ridgewood Public Library.

"In the never-ending cycle of daily life, we, each and every one of us, are warriors and guardians, striving our best day by day without losing hope."

RIDGEWOOD, June 20, 2023 – The Ridgewood Public Library is thrilled to announce the upcoming solo exhibition, 'The Twelve,' by Stephanie S. Lee. Running from July 2nd to July 29th, this captivating art exhibit delves into the profound symbolism and cultural significance of the number 12.

The number 12 has long been revered for its ancient wisdom and symbolism in numerous cultures worldwide. Drawing inspiration from this universal fascination, Stephanie S. Lee's 'The Twelve' exhibition delves into the intriguing traditions associated with this numerical motif.

In many Asian cultures, the 12 animals represent different years and hold great symbolic value. Korea, for example, upholds the tradition of placing statues of these animals around tombs, each facing a different direction, symbolizing protection. Similarly, the Western world has its own rich tapestry of associations with the number 12, seen through the 12 disciples of Christianity, the 12 labors of Hercules in Greek mythology, and the 12 constellations used in astronomy and astrology. Additionally, the 12 months of the year and the 12-hour clock system have become fundamental elements shaping our perception of time and structuring our lives.

Stephanie S. Lee's artistry breathes new life into the traditional Korean concept of '*Shibijisin*,' which encompasses time, cardinal directions, and plays a role in safeguarding human happiness and well-being. Her exhibition showcases a captivating collection of 12 animals, including the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig, symbolizing individuals' birth years and embodying various facets of human existence. Combining elements of contemporary symbolism such as diamonds and the *Ouroboros*, the artist conveys the message that we all possess the spirit of warriors and guardians who endure the repetitive routines and challenges of life, akin to the unyielding strength of diamonds.

Beyond its cultural roots, 'The Twelve' exhibition aims to unravel the layers of meaning inherent in the universal symbolism of the number 12. By transcending cultural boundaries and histories, Stephanie S. Lee's artwork encourages a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of diverse cultures. Through her creative endeavors, the exhibition seeks to enrich the human experience by fostering profound appreciation and sharing the richness of cultural diversity and history.

Please join us at the Ridgewood Public Library from July 2nd to July 29th to experience Stephanie S. Lee's remarkable 'The Twelve' exhibition. Prepare to be captivated by the fusion of traditional and contemporary symbolism and gain a newfound appreciation for the cultural tapestry that binds us all.

About the Artist

Stephanie Lee's background is in graphic design where she worked in global firms, including KPMG and SRZ. As of late, she thrives as an artist, curator, and art educator in Queens, New York. In addition, she is a founding director of GAC, a nonprofit art organization: garageartcenter.org and a Korean Folk Art organization, Koreanfolkart.org. She promotes and shares visual art with the community through exhibitions and workshops. Lee is also associated with the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, where designs exhibition promotional graphics and assists with operations.
For more about the artist, please check www.stephanieslee.com

Calendar Listing

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.

Image List

The Twelve | Stephanie S. Lee | 48” H x 18” W each | Drawing & graphic design printed on linen. hanging scroll.

Breaking a New Dawn | Stephanie S. Lee | 18" H x 13" W x 2" D | Vine black, natural mineral pigment and ink on linen

Royal Companion| Stephanie S. Lee | 13" H x 18" W x 2" D | Vine black, natural mineral pigment and ink on linen

Press Contact

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For more information about the library:
https://ridgewoodlibrary.org/