

Artist's Note

Jihyoung Seo

In my work, I recreate images from memories with rubber eraser (initially a form of clay which hardens into a rubber eraser when heated). The rubber eraser, which is now the material of my work, is actually the identical material I used to play with twenty years ago. This childhood experience has shaped my special emotion toward the material, which became the starting point for my present work. The meaning of the eraser goes beyond simply being the material of my work, in that the eraser itself is a symbol of existence and oblivion and that it is used in recalling the domain of memories that are already deleted or still kept, or memories that could be erased shortly even though they exist now. Furthermore the physical property of the rubber clay before being heated has everything to do with recalling one's childhood memories. By using clay just like a child playing with it in a non-professional method, I wanted to share a message that art is not necessarily abstruse and exists in our everyday life. It is also my wish to stir up a sense of appreciation and nostalgia toward 'memories' in the viewers, in that memories are the whole substance that make up ourselves.

The images that are created through this process involve the realm of memory that could be brought up to the surface of consciousness without a laborious effort. It covers the entire domain of time from the precise moment the mental process of memorizing initiates to the very present—a moment which turned into the past just now. Especially, I began reshaping the combinations of memories that relate to the present. The accumulations of memories of visual or physical experiences are the substance that compose the current me, and therefore the method I use is to recombine the objects reminiscent of the fragments of memories stored within myself. As a result, I discovered that I naturally began by recreating those certain 'incidents' that caused emotional upheavals during childhood or my personal 'turning points' in life, which suggests the continuity between the present and selective memories of the past. In this process, while the starting point was mainly centered around myself, the sphere of my work has expanded to include things surrounding and related to me, memories that are shared by the contemporary mass, and also stories of the environment.

It is my hope that my work remains honest and sincere and reflects the affection for myself and those surrounding me. At the same time, I wish to use simple and plain material easily seen

around us to create a small passage between people and art, which is actually not so distant from us. Memory is the substance that composes myself; it is the beginning of all human relationship. It is the existence of memories that enables recollections, love, and even pain to exist. Hopefully, my works become a record, a journal, or a heart-warming essay that contain such things.