

# The Video Art of Lee nam Lee

## Introduction for Educators

January 16 - March 27, 2011

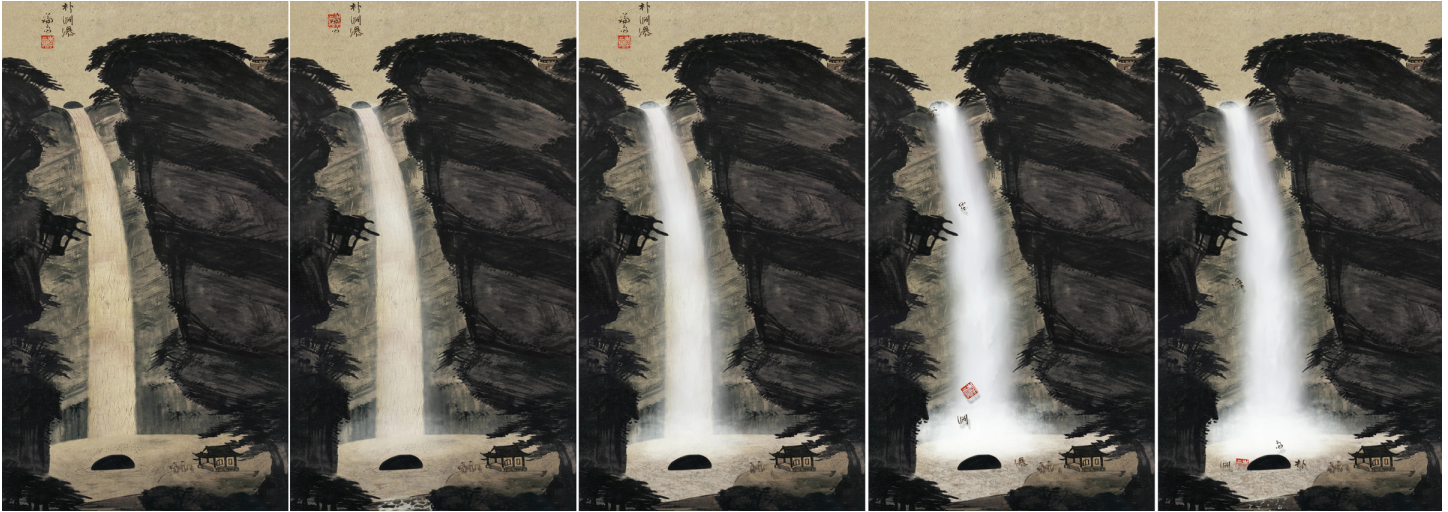


Stills from *A Conversation Between Monet and Sochi*, Lee nam Lee, 2009

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Stills from *Waterfall of Park Yeon*, Lee nam Lee, 2010

#### About Lee nam Lee

Lee nam Lee is an artist living in Gwangju, Korea. He studied sculpture and then became interested in clay and digital animation. The works in this exhibition feature iconic images from the history of art that Lee manipulates and animates to present in a new and different way.

In *A Conversation Between Monet and Sochi*, Lee combines an important image from the Western tradition of art with one from the East. Claude Monet's (1840 - 1926) *Impression: Sunrise*, an oil on canvas from 1873, is very important to the Western history of art because this is where we get the term Impressionism. The Korean artist Sochi (1909-1893) was a master of realistic drawing. Lee takes the two images and merges them, incorporating the stylistic elements of each, as well as manipulating the landscape through time.

#### Discussion Sparks

- Brainstorm examples of appropriation. Discuss whether the appropriator has created something new or not.
- Have the students create art work by appropriating images from the history of art and either drawing over them or use them to make collages.
- Have the students watch a clip of Lee nam Lee's work on

Youtube.com (search for "leenam lee") that was created especially for iPads. Discuss how this experience is similar to, or different from, seeing Lee's work in a museum gallery.

#### Appropriation

Appropriation is when an artist takes the work of another artist and alters it somehow to offer a new and fresh perspective. Examples of artists appropriating other artists' works can be found throughout the history of art:

- Ancient Roman sculptors made copies of Greek works
- The Impressionist used elements of Japanese prints
- Manet borrowed compositions from Titian and Giorgione in his *Olympia* of 1863
- In 1919, Marcel Duchamp added facial hair to the *Mona Lisa* for his *L.H.O.O.Q.*
- In the 1980s and 1990s appropriation became so common that the term "Appropriation Art" was coined to group and describe the work of artists dealing with the issue of appropriation and originality.

There are many examples of appropriation that will be relevant to students, including sampling in popular music, "borrowing" internet blog content, and sitcoms that take plot lines from books, movies and other television shows.