



JAMES JEAN

James Jean was born in Taiwan in 1979 and attended the School of Visual Arts in New York, graduating with a BFA in 2001. He began his career as a commercial illustrator, which culminated in a large-scale collaboration with Prada in 2007-2008 that included mural installations, fabric prints, and an animated film. Since then, Jean has focused his multifaceted studio practice on fusing contemporary subjects with aesthetic techniques from such diverse sources as traditional Chinese scroll paintings, Japanese woodblock prints, Renaissance portraiture, West African Masquerade, comics books, and psychedelia. By experimenting with different styles and art-historical genres, Jean depicts detailed cosmological worlds that focus on both individual and universal experiences. Layered with imagery drawn from contemporary culture and age-old allegories, he imagines a collective realm of mythological proportions.

Jean's works form part of the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art (New York, United States), Asian Art Museum (San Francisco, United States), Lotte Museum of Art (Seoul, Korea), and Colección SOLO (Madrid Spain).



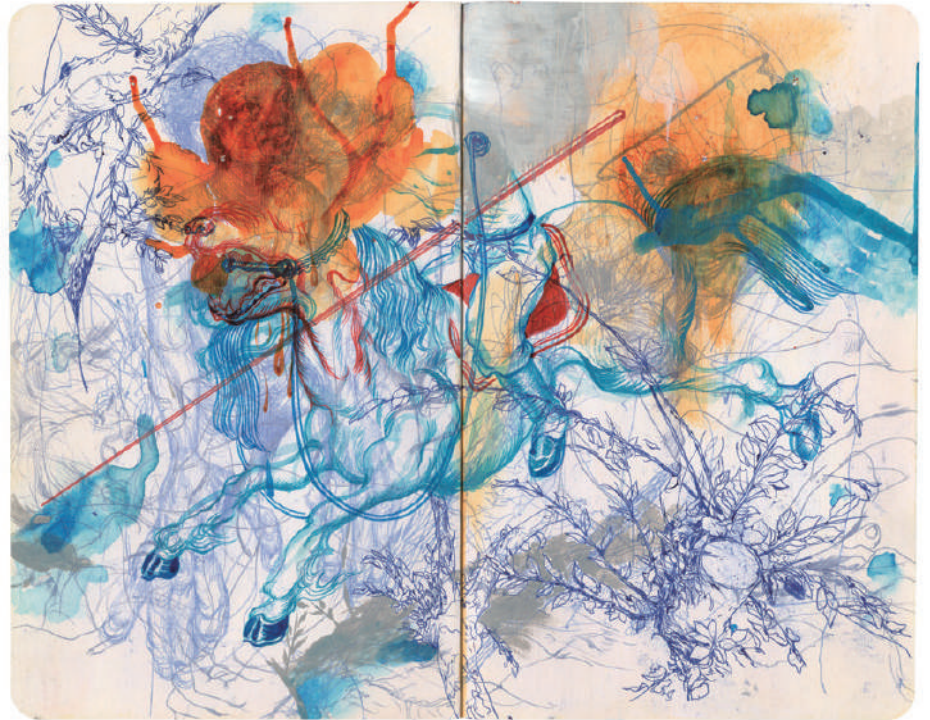
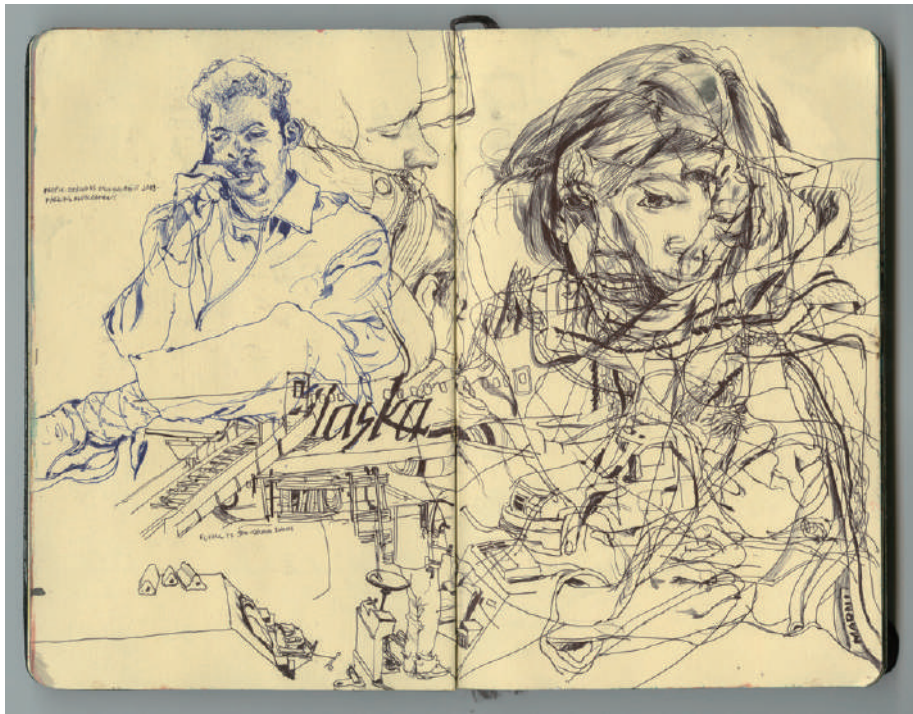
LOS ANGELES STUDIO, 2021.

SKETCHES

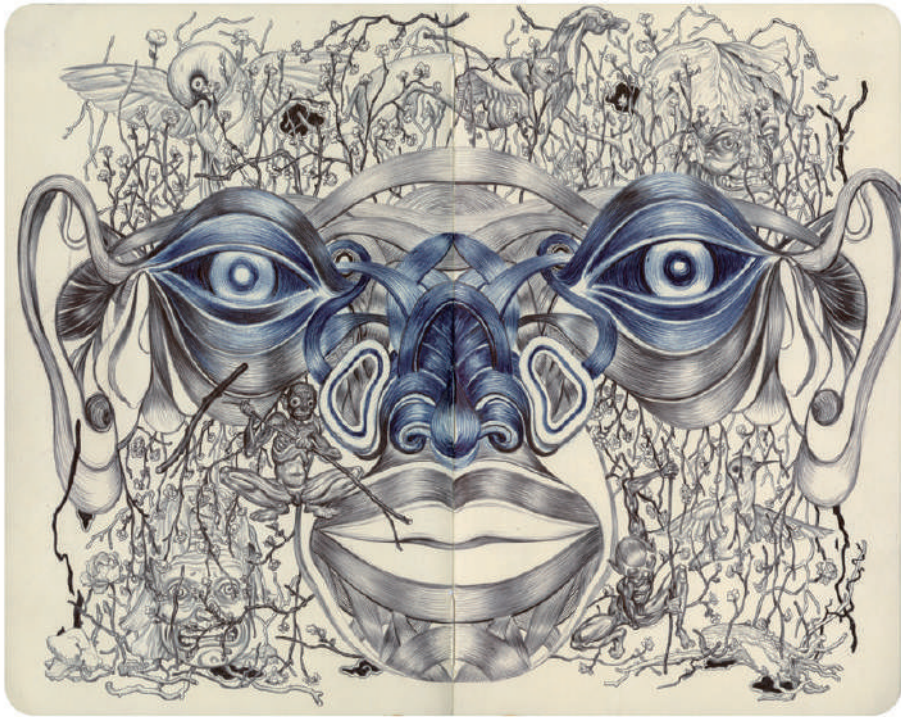


SKETCHBOOKS. INK AND MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER.

Utilizing drawing as the narrative core for his practice, Jean cites the figurative imagery found in Chauvet Cave as a spiritual antecedent to the obsessively layered drawings that fill his sketchbooks. Distilled from memory and imagination, his sketchbook drawings reveal the shifting dialogue between the mind's eye and the hand of the draftsman, the overlapping lines alive with rhythmic intensity.







PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS



TOP: ADRIFT III SKETCH. GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 11 X 8", 2019.
BOTTOM: MONARCH AND SKIPPERS SKETCH. GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 11 X 8", 2019



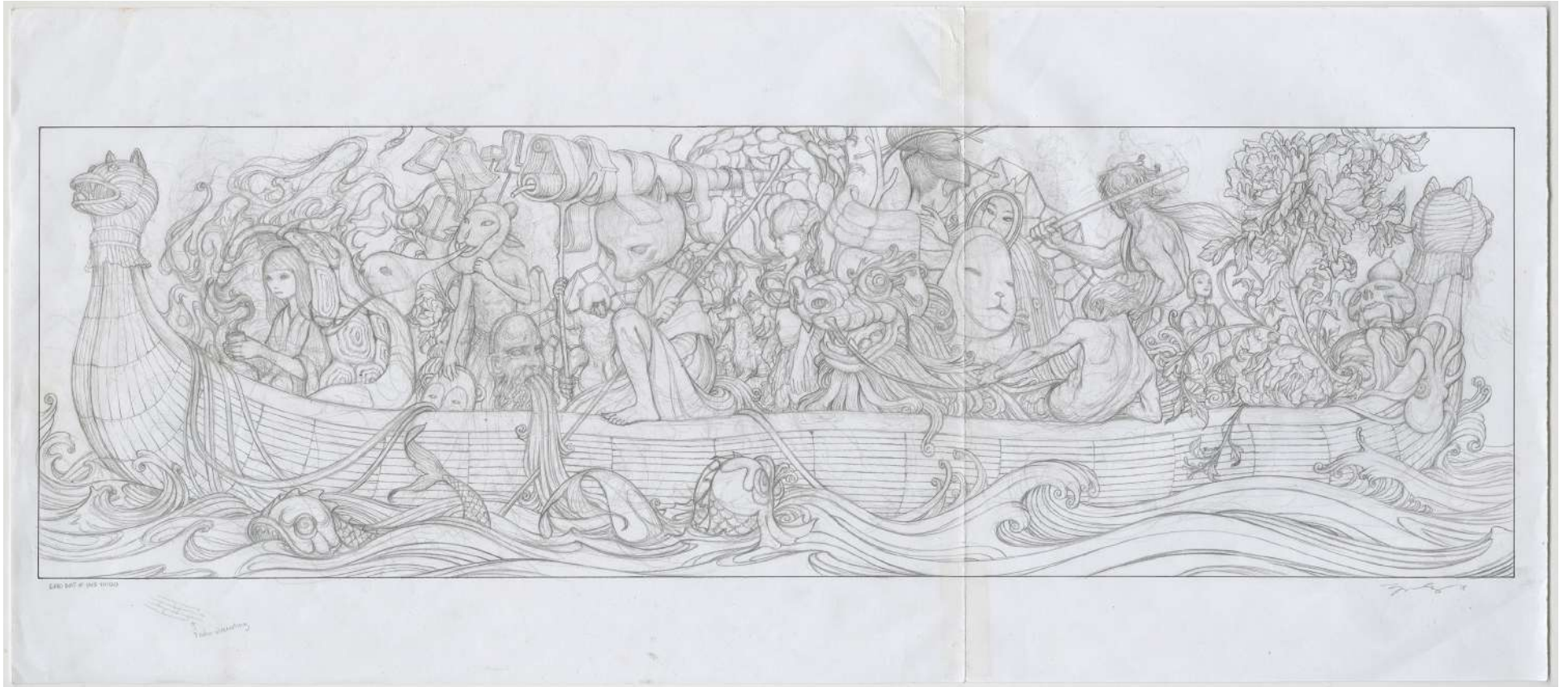
CHINE SKETCH, GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 8 X 11", 2020.



DOUBT SKETCH. GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 11 X 8", 2022.



BIBLIOPHILE SKETCH. GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 8 X 11", 2020.



PASSAGE SKETCH. GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 8 x 18", 2018.



STAMPEDE SKETCH. GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 8 x 19", 2018.

PAINTINGS



LIBER NOVUS. ACRYLIC, OIL, AND PASTEL ON CANVAS, 48 X 60", 2009.



ADRIFT III. ACRYLIC ON THREE CANVASES, 198 X 98", 2020.







TOYMAKER. OIL ON PAPER, 90 X 41", 2008.

MURALS

In 2017, the Portland Regional Arts and Culture Council and a developer commissioned Jean to create a permanent mural installation to wrap around 8 sides and two roofs of an office building that was expressly built to feature a fully contiguous painting as an integral part of the architecture. The Fair-Haired Dumbbell, as the building is called, has since become the newest landmark in Portland, Oregon, representative of the idiosyncratic and progressive spirit of the city.





THE FAIR-HAIRED DUMBBELL. GRAPHITE AND DIGITAL, 2016.

The FHD is a container for creative enterprise and ideas, and Jean began to design the mural by imagining that the oblique walls of the building were formed by slicing down the sides to reveal cross sections of thundereggs (the Oregon state rock) and geodes, evoking ideas of transparency and discovery, of excavating slices of internal anatomy like MRI scans. The random, staggered distribution of windows are like cut arteries and conduits, and the thundereggs impart a view into the morphology of the building. Their slow-forming inertia is a counterpoint to the speed of the swirling kinetic activity on the streets. Thus, the twin structures become a cross section of creativity, seemingly growing and changing by absorbing the energy from the flux around and within it.

In contrast to the hard, crystalline lines of the thunderegg motif, a lyrical network of flowers links the elements together. Their design is meant to evoke notions of growth, adaptability, and interconnectedness. The fictional flowers, a visual hybrid of the rose (the Portland city flower) and the Oregon Grape (the Oregon state flower), erupt from the ground and wrap around the thundereggs at points, symbolic of the city's relationship with nature, its mindfulness of the environment, and the flourishing activity in the area.

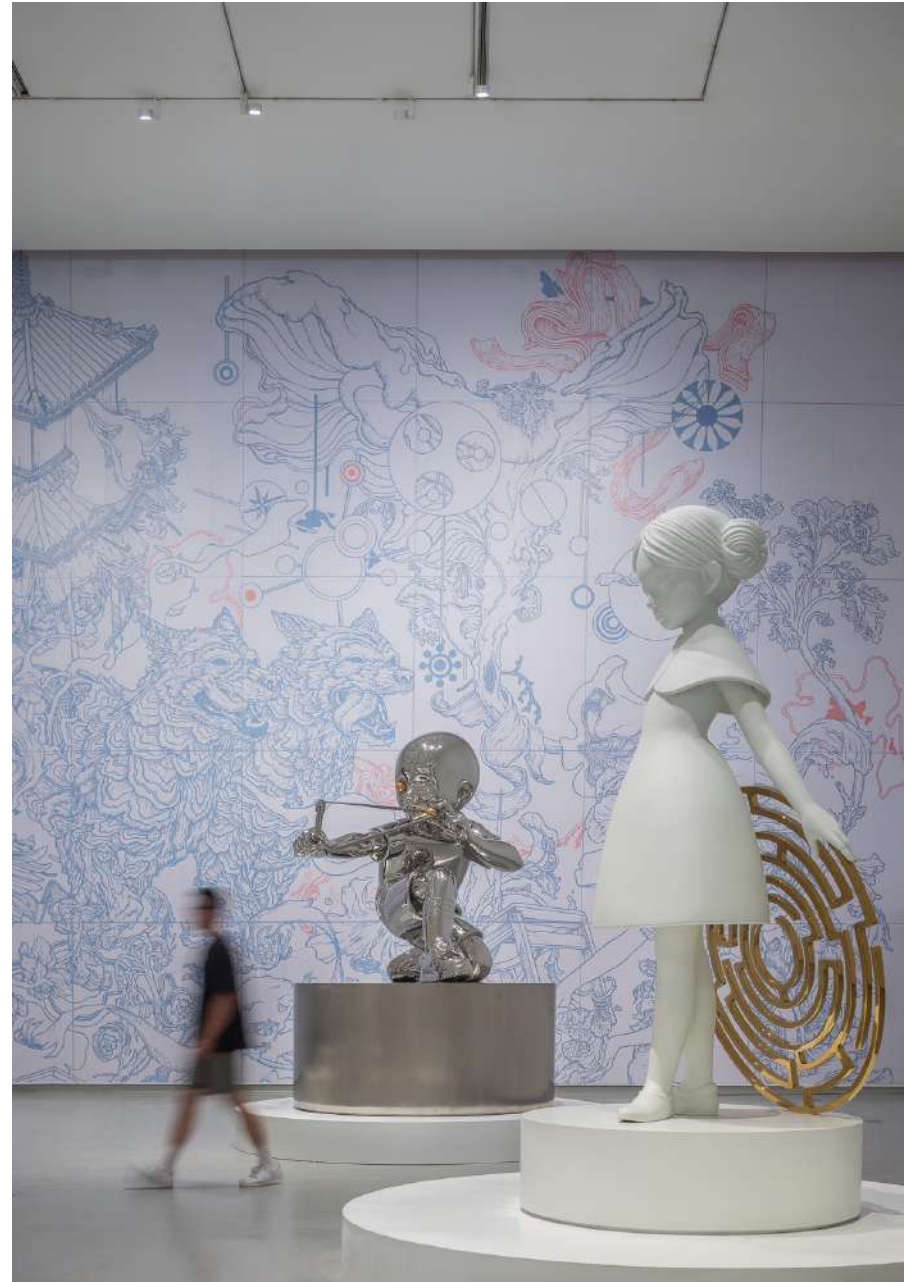


PRADA EPICENTER TOKYO, JAPAN, 2008.

SCULPTURES



THE DESCENDENT. MIRROR POLISHED STAINLESS STEEL, 118 X 61 X 61", 2022.



LEFT: THE SLINGSHOT. MIRROR POLISHED STAINLESS STEEL, 118 X 61 X 61", 2022.
RIGHT: THE MAZE. STAINLESS STEEL WITH AUTOMOTIVE LACQUER AND 24K GOLD LEAF, 118 X 61 X 61", 2022.



SLINGSHOT MARBLE. STATUARIO MARBLE WITH STAINLESS STEEL EYES, 16 X 15 X 15", 2021.



MAZE MARBLE. STATUARIO MARBLE WITH BLACK RHODIUM PLATED BRASS, 28 X 21 X 15", 2022.

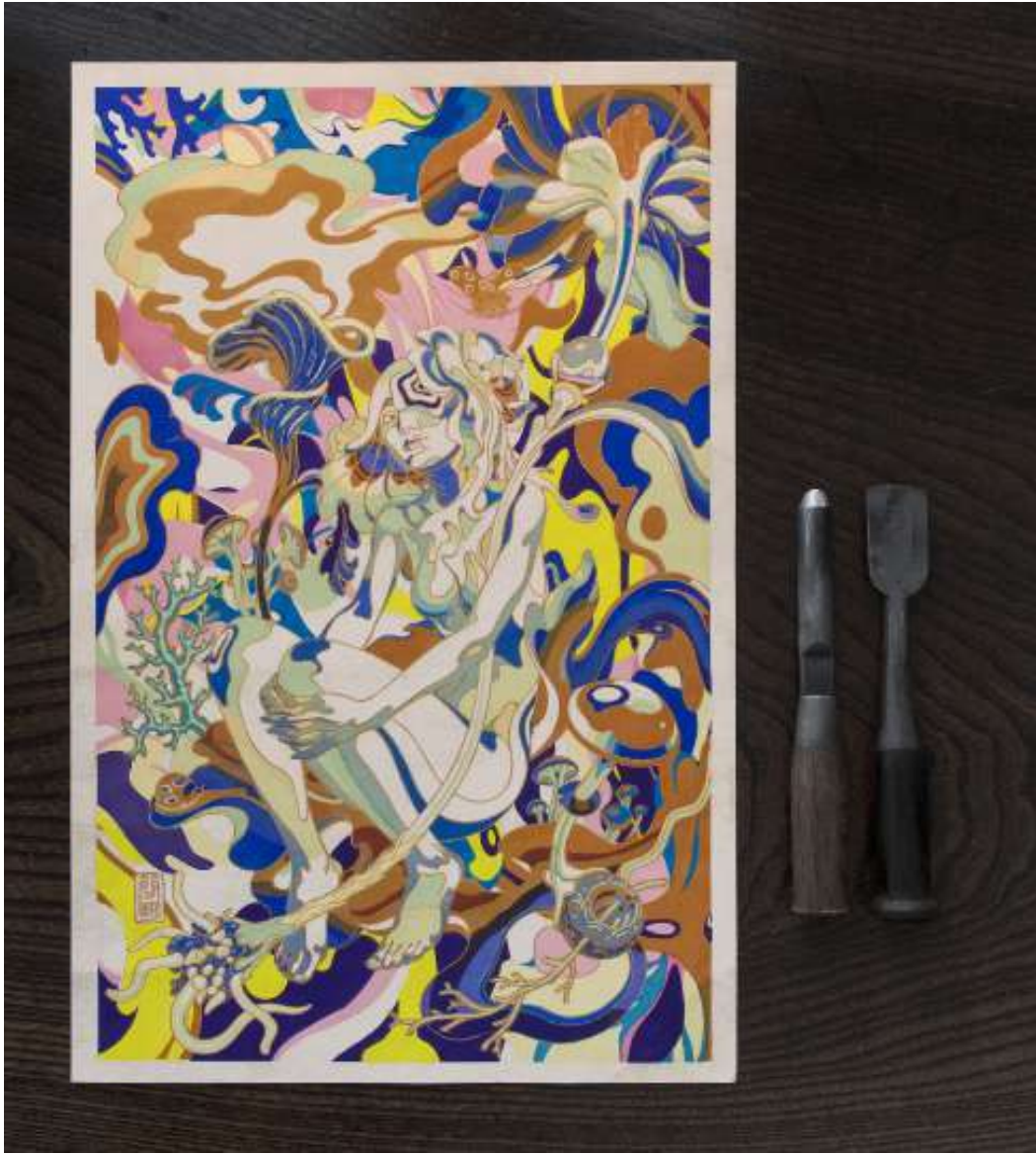


SLINGSHOT MONUMENT. BRONZE WITH STAINLESS STEEL AND GOLD LEAF, 72 X 62 X 70", 2021.

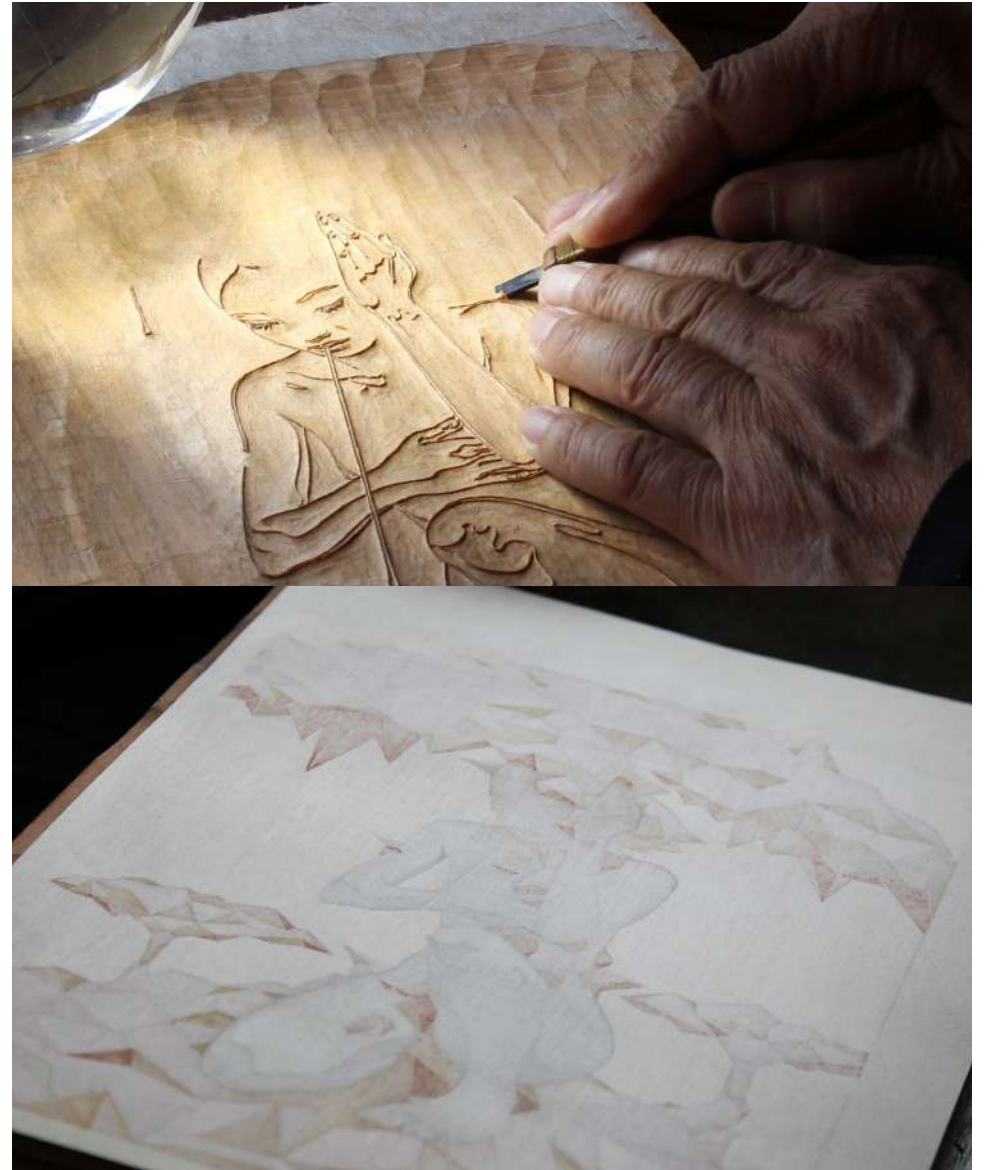
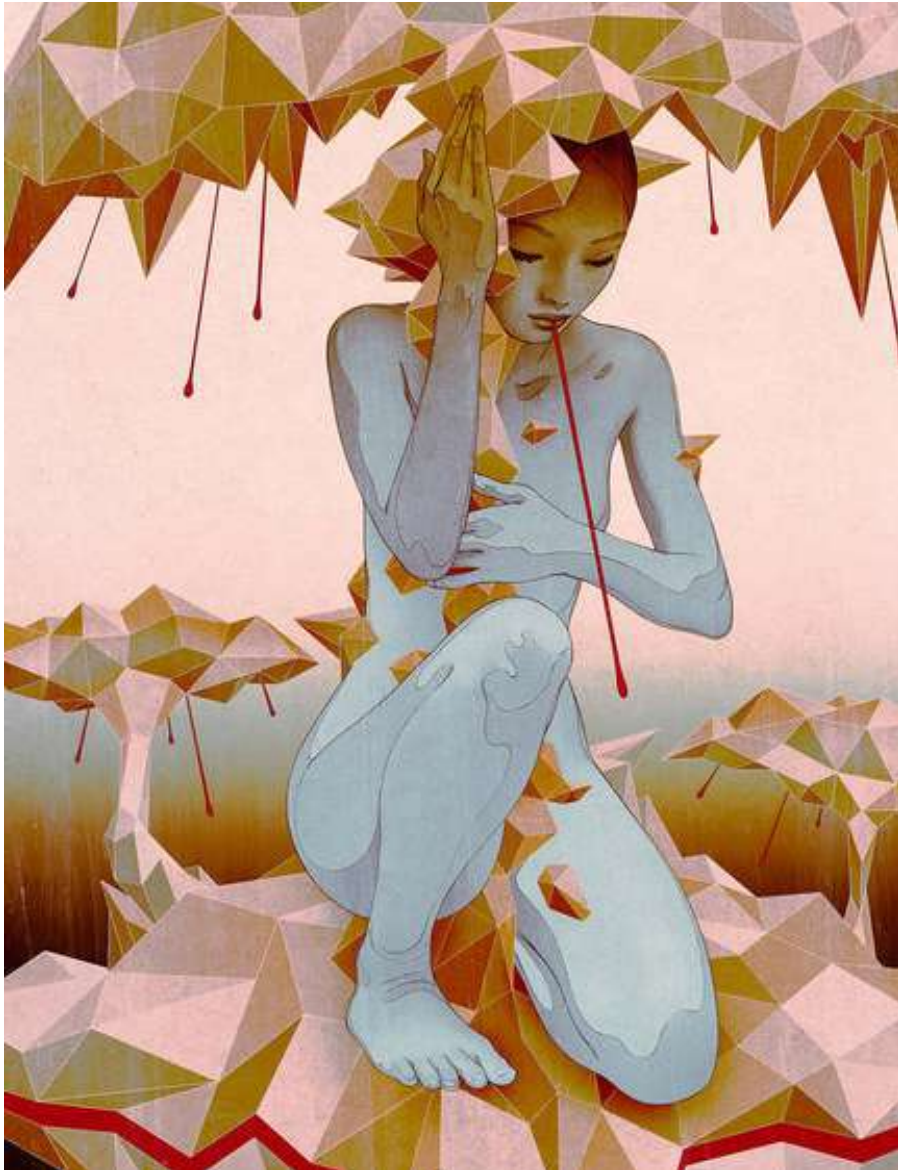


SPRING. MIRROR FROSTED STAINLESS STEEL, 79 X 59 X 62", 2023.

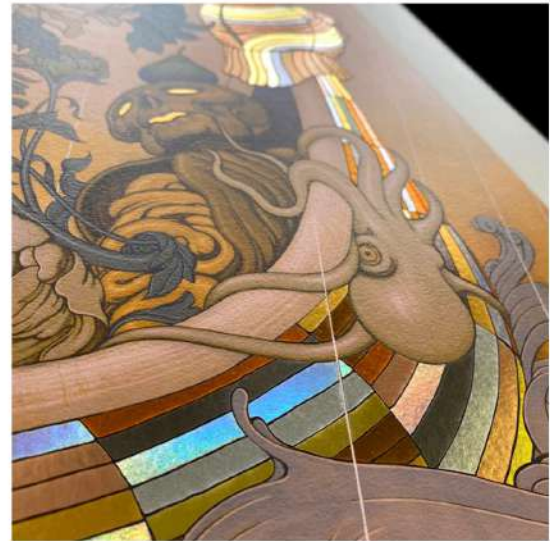
PRINTMAKING



DOLLY VARDEN. 25 COLOR WOODBLOCK PRINT ON WASHI, 10 X 15", EDITION OF 100, 2018.



PARASOLA. 25 COLOR WOODBLOCK PRINT ON WASHI, 10 X 13", EDITION OF 100, 2018.

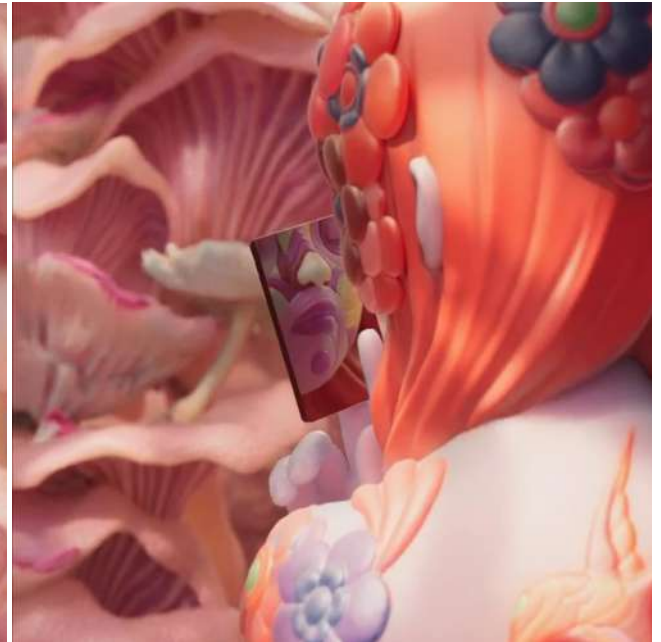


Using traditional and digital printmaking techniques, Jean has been collaborating with master printmaker Brad Keech since 2006. Together, they have transformed Jean's images into beloved editions that combine shallow relief effects, silkscreening, chine-collé, foil stamping, and resin printing in unprecedented and technically astonishing ways.

ANIMATIONS



HARMONY. DIGITAL ANIMATION. 2021.



SUN TAROT. DIGITAL ANIMATION, 2023.



WOODCUTTER BLOSSOMING. DIGITAL ANIMATION, 8000 X 8000 PIXELS, 2022.



ARCHITECTURE

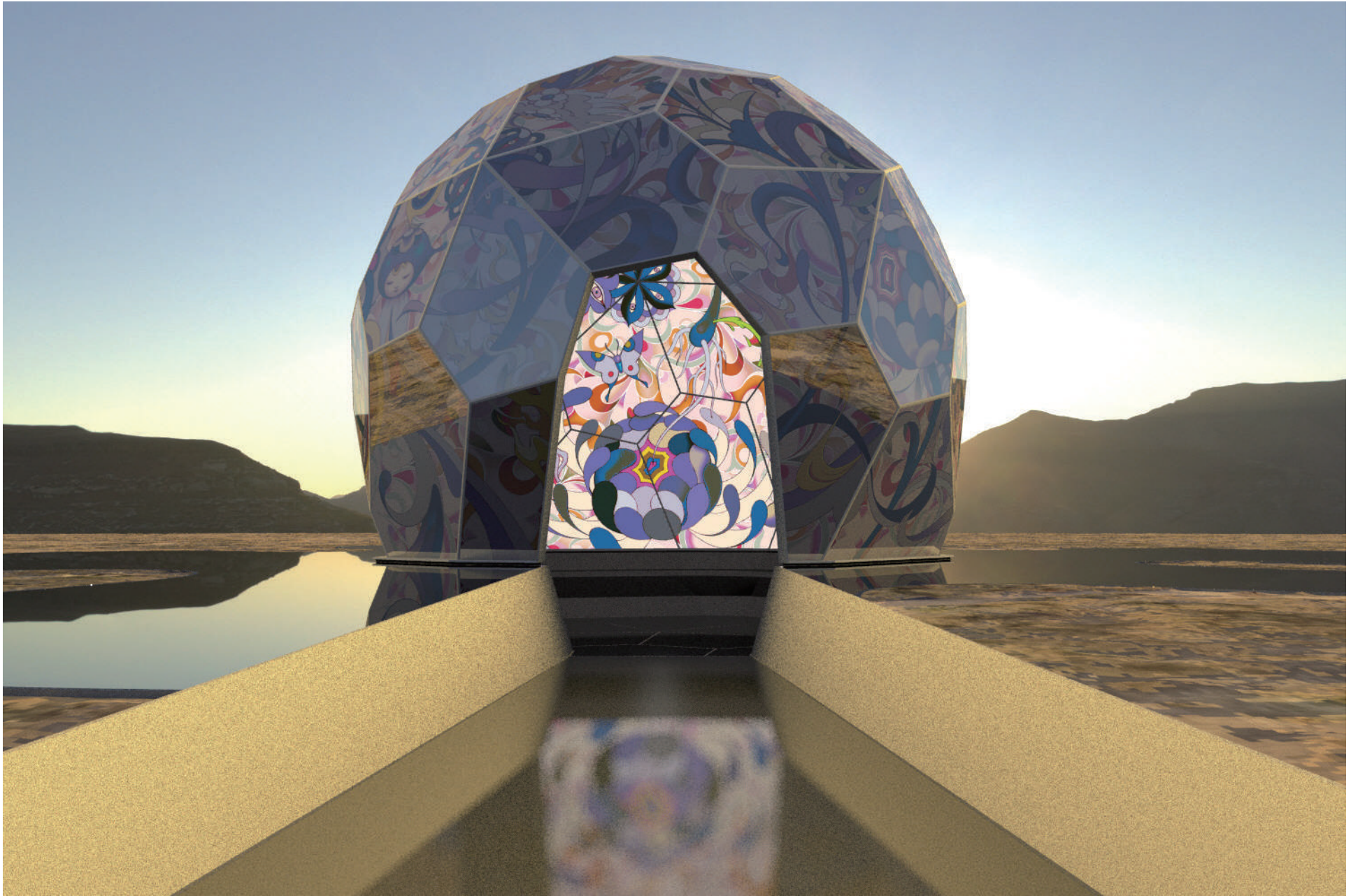


Pagoda is a luminous architectural pavilion and immersive art experience that transports visitors into a vivid garden of intertwining botanical forms and alluring mystical creatures conceived in the mind-bending imagination of prolific artist, James Jean.

Jean's mesmerizing dreamscape is transmuted into a stunning, innovatively designed, stainless steel structure integrated with intricately detailed panels created by Judson Studios, the oldest family-run stained glass company in the United States. After multiple collaborations with Judson, Jean has pioneered new fabrication techniques in fused glass that have never been achieved before, taking the medium to new heights.

Pagoda is a bold manifestation of expressive artistry and technical ingenuity. Years in the making, it is a vibrant beacon sensitively embedded in the land and a transcendent space for personal contemplation and profound community connections.



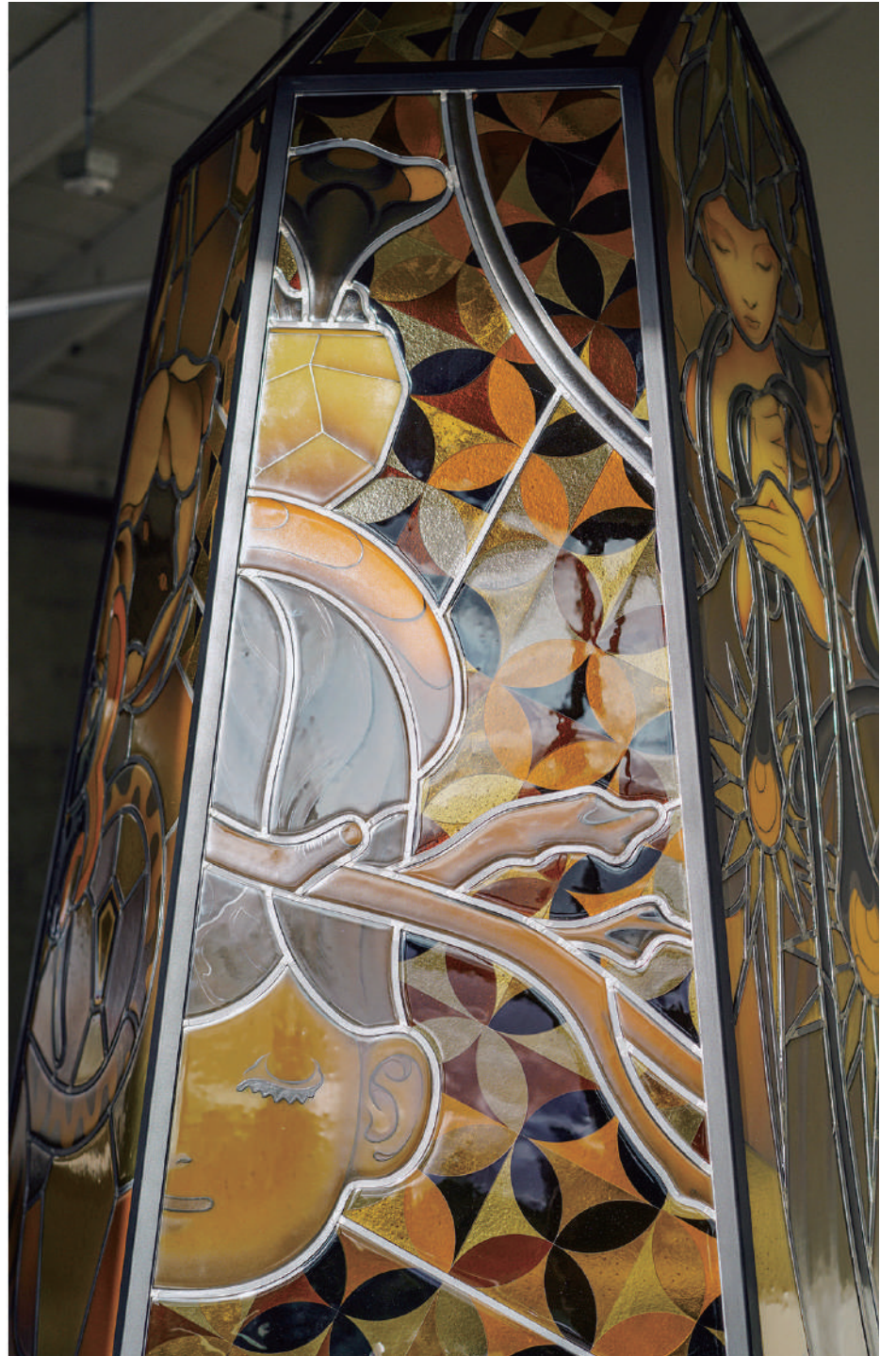


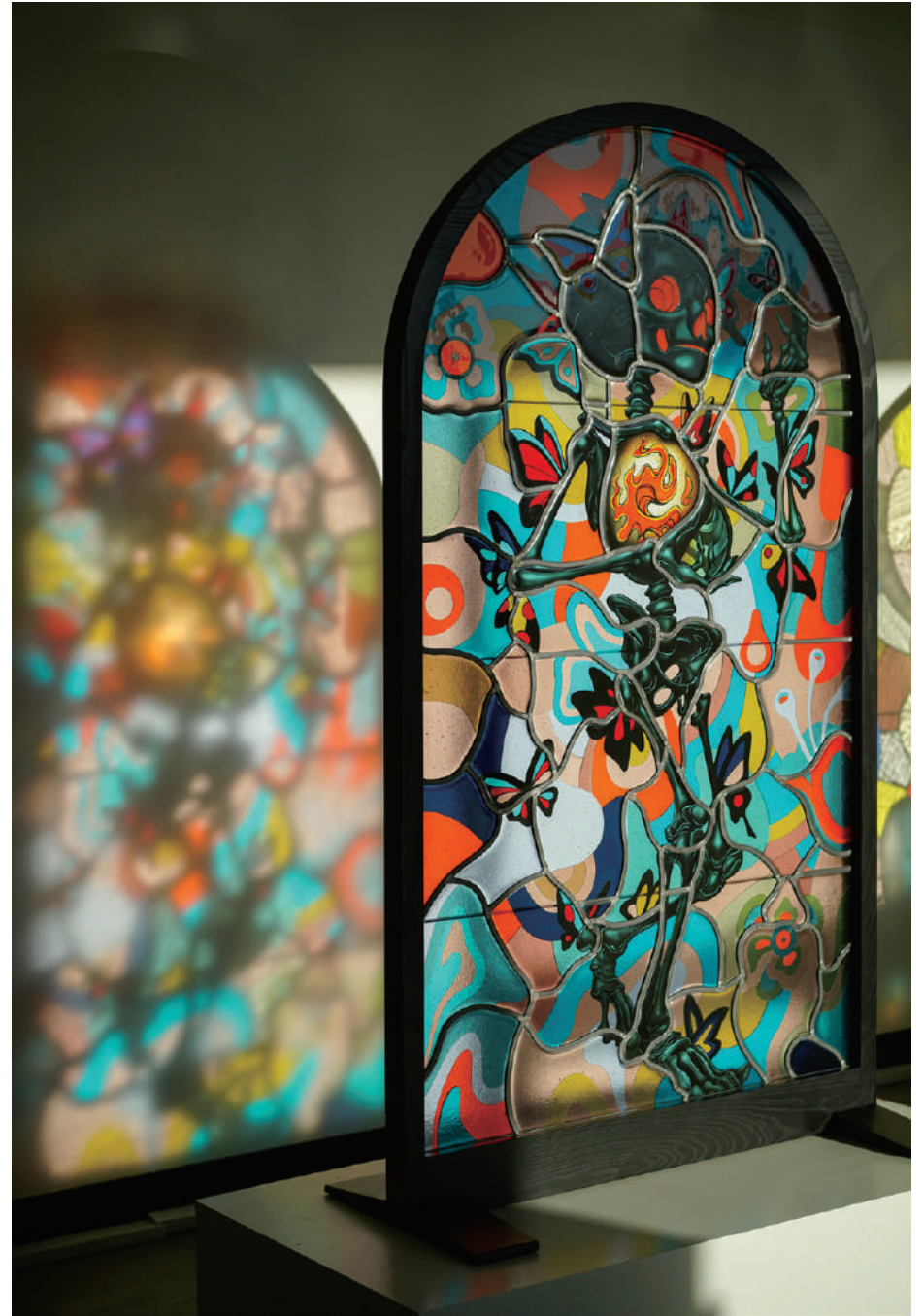
PAGODA. FUSED GLASS, STEEL, AND CONCRETE, 14'-3"H X 17'-6"W. EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: 2024.



GAIA. STAINED GLASS, FUSED GLASS, AND STEEL, 93 x 52 x 52", 2019.







PORTALS. STAINED AND FUSED GLASS, 35 x 57", 2018.

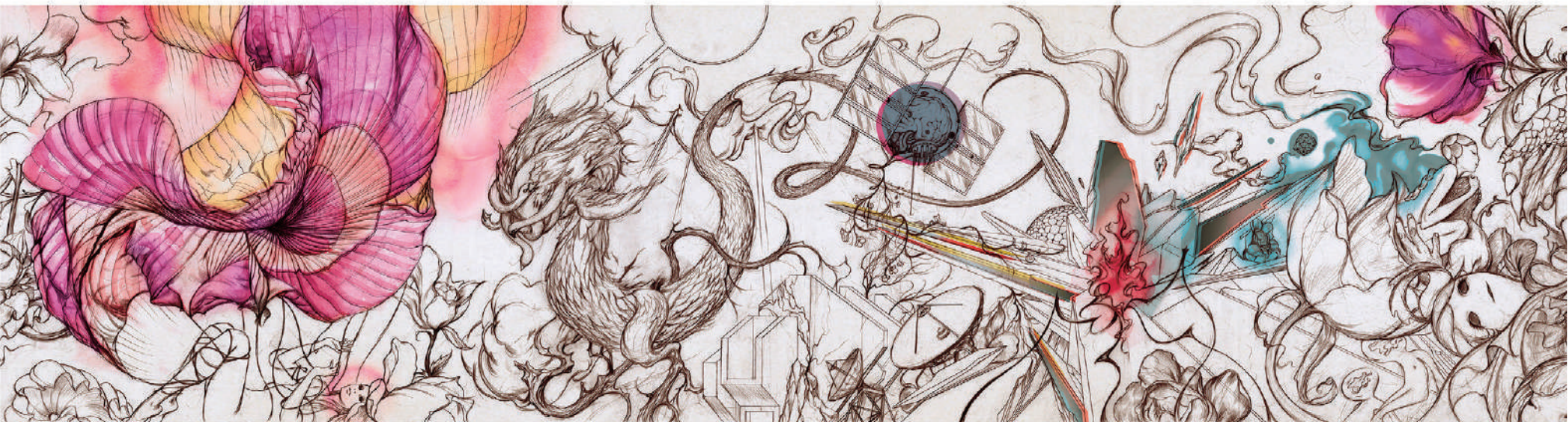
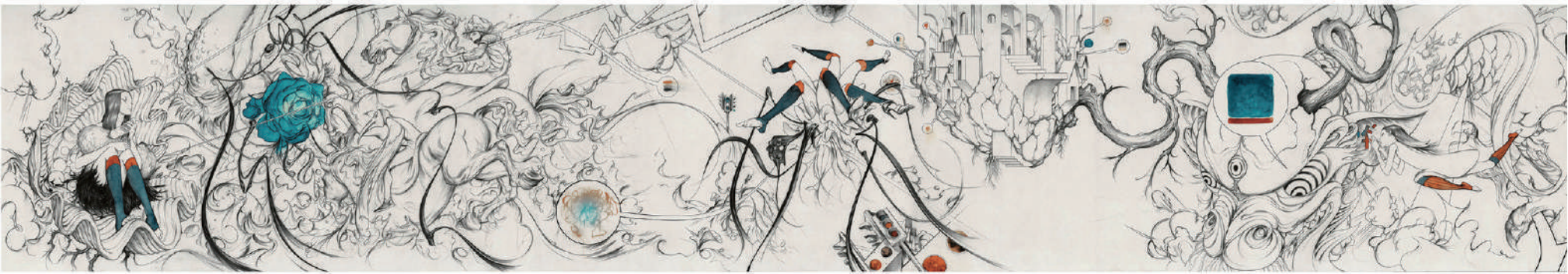
FASHION



PRADA SPRING/SUMMER 2008.



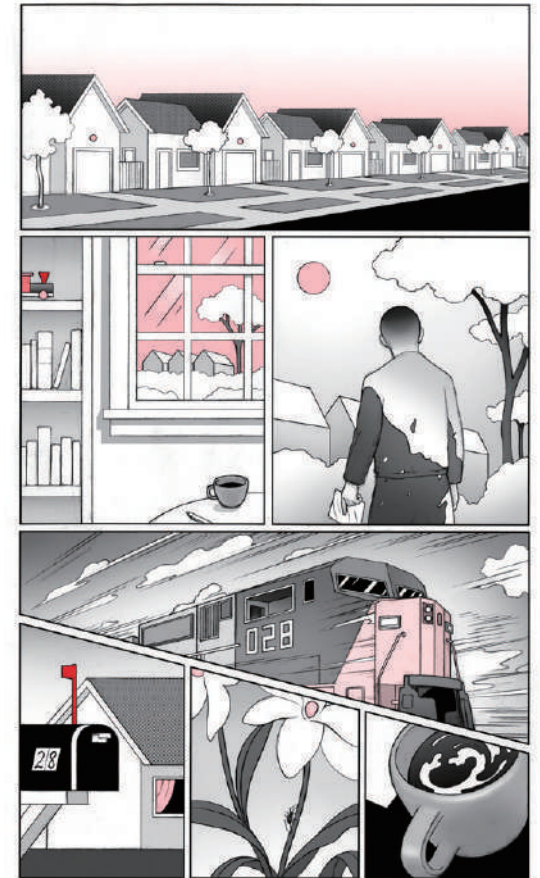
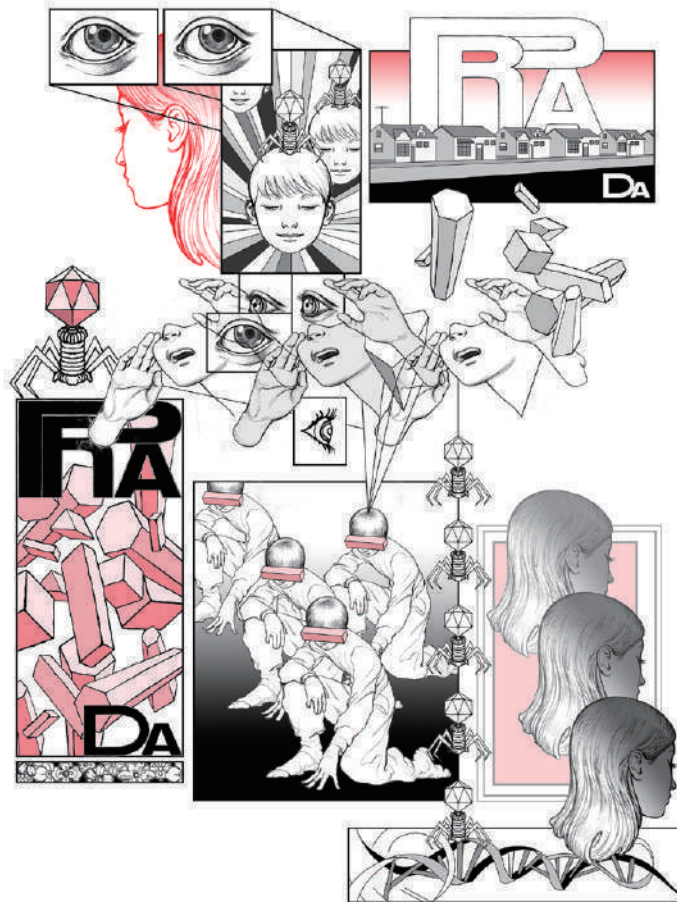
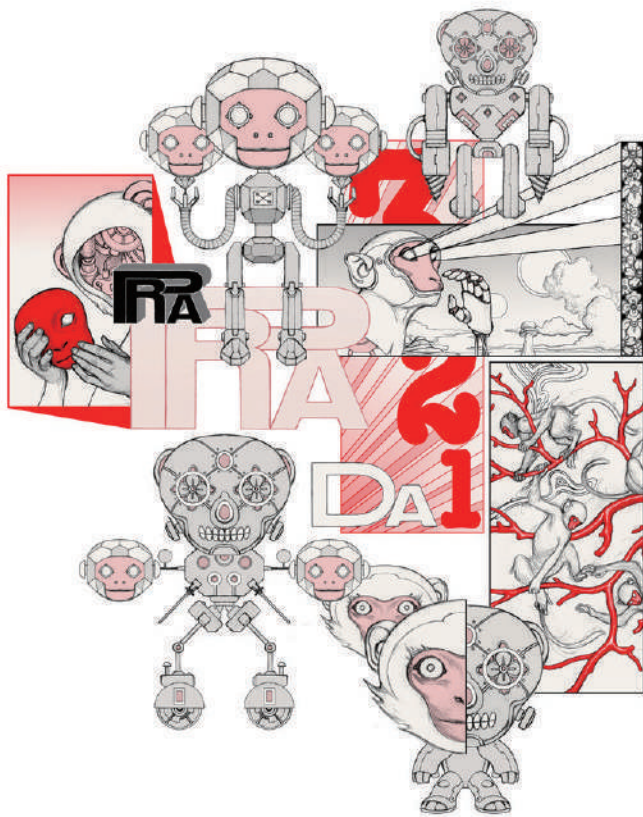
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN MEISEL.



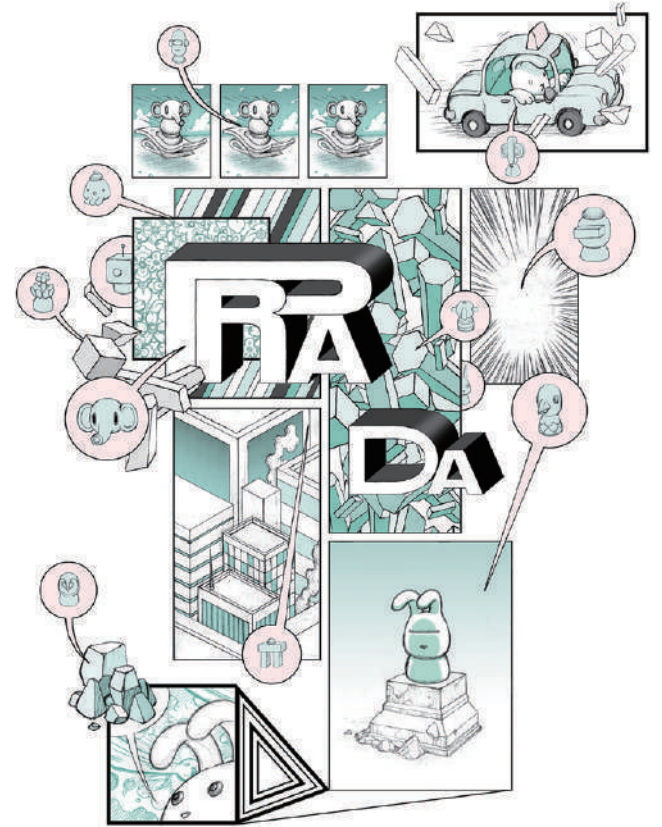
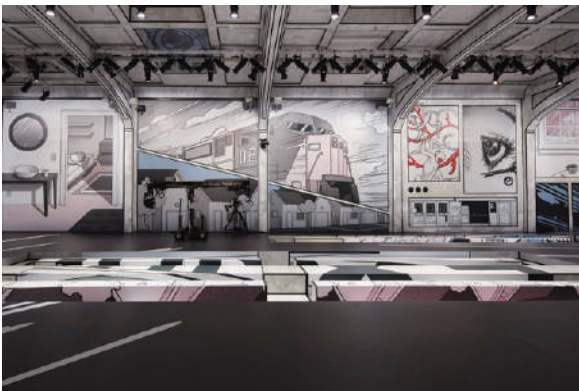
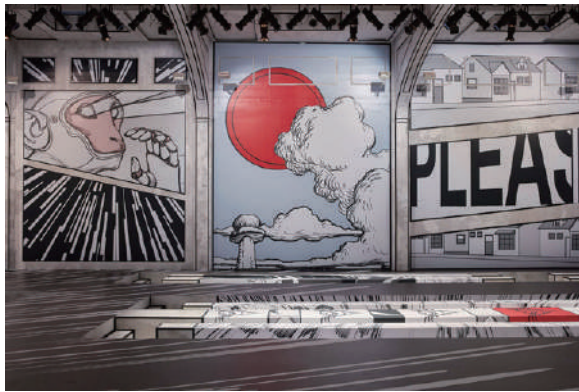
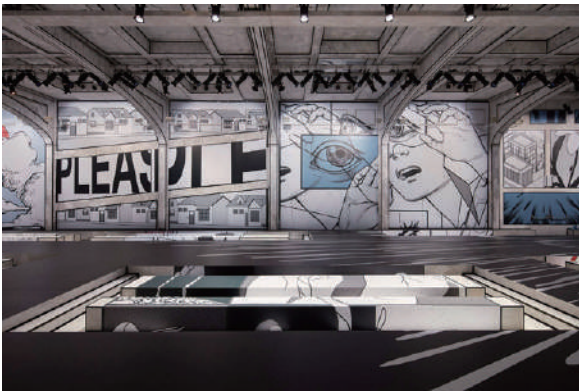
In 2007-2008, Jean created two extensive mural installations for Prada, which were consequently adapted onto clothing, accessories, and environmental displays. Miuccia Prada allowed Jean complete freedom to interpret a few simple verbal prompts - "romantic", "surreal", "non-linear" - which resulted in a Boschian landscape of carnivorous flowers and surreal imagery that spanned an entire city block in SoHo, NY, and wrapped around a runway designed by OMA for the 2008 Spring/Summer collection.



ABOVE: PRADA EPICENTER MURAL. GRAPHITE AND DIGITAL, SIZES VARIABLE, 2007. BELOW: PRADA MILAN MURAL. GRAPHITE AND DIGITAL, SIZES VARIABLE, 2008.



Jean returned to work with Prada again in 2017-2018 on the Women's Resort Collection as well as the Men's Spring/Summer 2018 collection. Inspired by comic books and themes of replication and virtual reality, Jean's drawings were once again transformed onto clothing, accessories, and expanded into immersive environments. Images of viruses recall the exploration of CRISPR technology and gene editing tools, while the elusive narrative coursing through the panels tell the story of contemporary life through various modes of seeing, the characters wilting under the gaze of an omnipotent, dispassionate artificial intelligence.



PRADA HQ, MILAN, ITALY, 2017-2018.

FILM ART

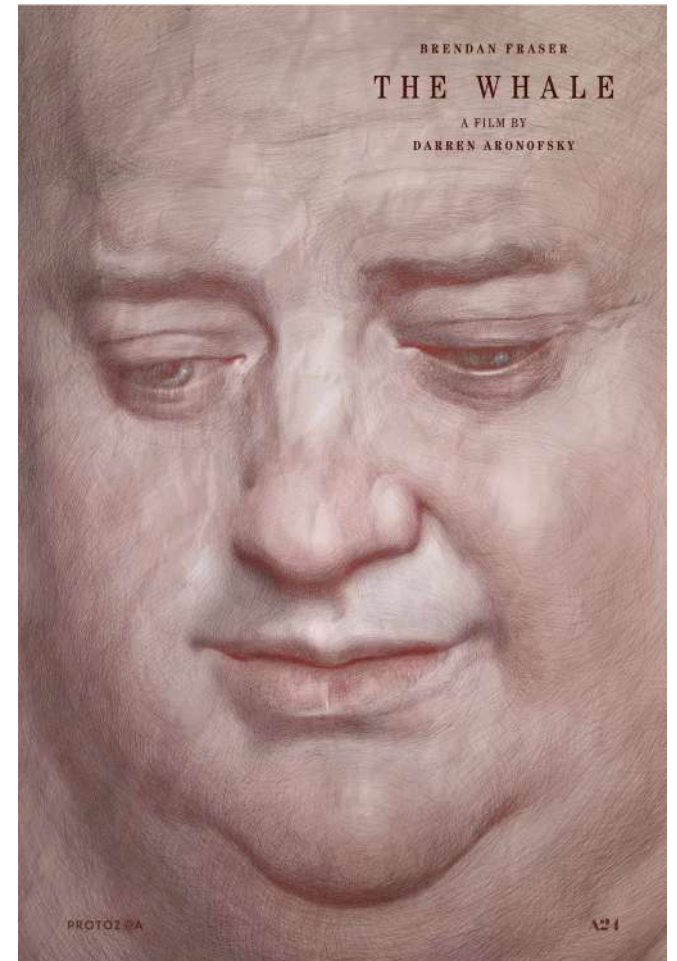
In 2022, James was asked to create one sheets for *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, *The Whale*, and *Pinocchio*. All three films would go on to win multiple Academy Awards. In the words of Guillermo Del Toro, "James is our lucky charm!" The process behind each poster was as unique as each director. For *Pinocchio*, Jean created a large graphite drawing on paper inspired by the etchings of Albrecht Dürer, which he colored digitally. With *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, ceiling frescos from Tiepolo inspired the composition. The drawing, separated into pieces due to the plethora of details, was done completely on the iPad and then colored digitally. For *The Whale*, he proposed a very simple ink-drawn portrait that referenced to works by Lucian Freud and Kiki Smith. The drawing was done with ink on paper and then scanned into the computer where Jean applied some light coloring and texture.



PINOCCHIO, 2022



EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE, 2022



THE WHALE, 2022

Jean created the poster art for three films in 2017: Darren Aronofsky's *mother!*, Guillermo del Toro's *The Shape of Water*, and Denis Villeneuve's *Blade Runner 2049*. Employing different media for each artwork, he hand-painted two character posters for *mother!* (one for Jennifer Lawrence and another for Javier Bardem), made a charcoal drawing for *The Shape of Water*, and used digital drawing tools for *Blade Runner 2049*. As part of his creative process, Jean collaborated closely with both Darren Aronofsky and Guillermo del Toro. Del Toro, a long-time fan of Jean's work, describes his drawings as having "a delicate nature to them and beautiful line work that is at the same time realistic and sort of elevated into a style of his own." Jean's posters uniquely evoke the tone and mood of each film without overtly revealing depictions of plot.



BLADE RUNNER 2049, 2017

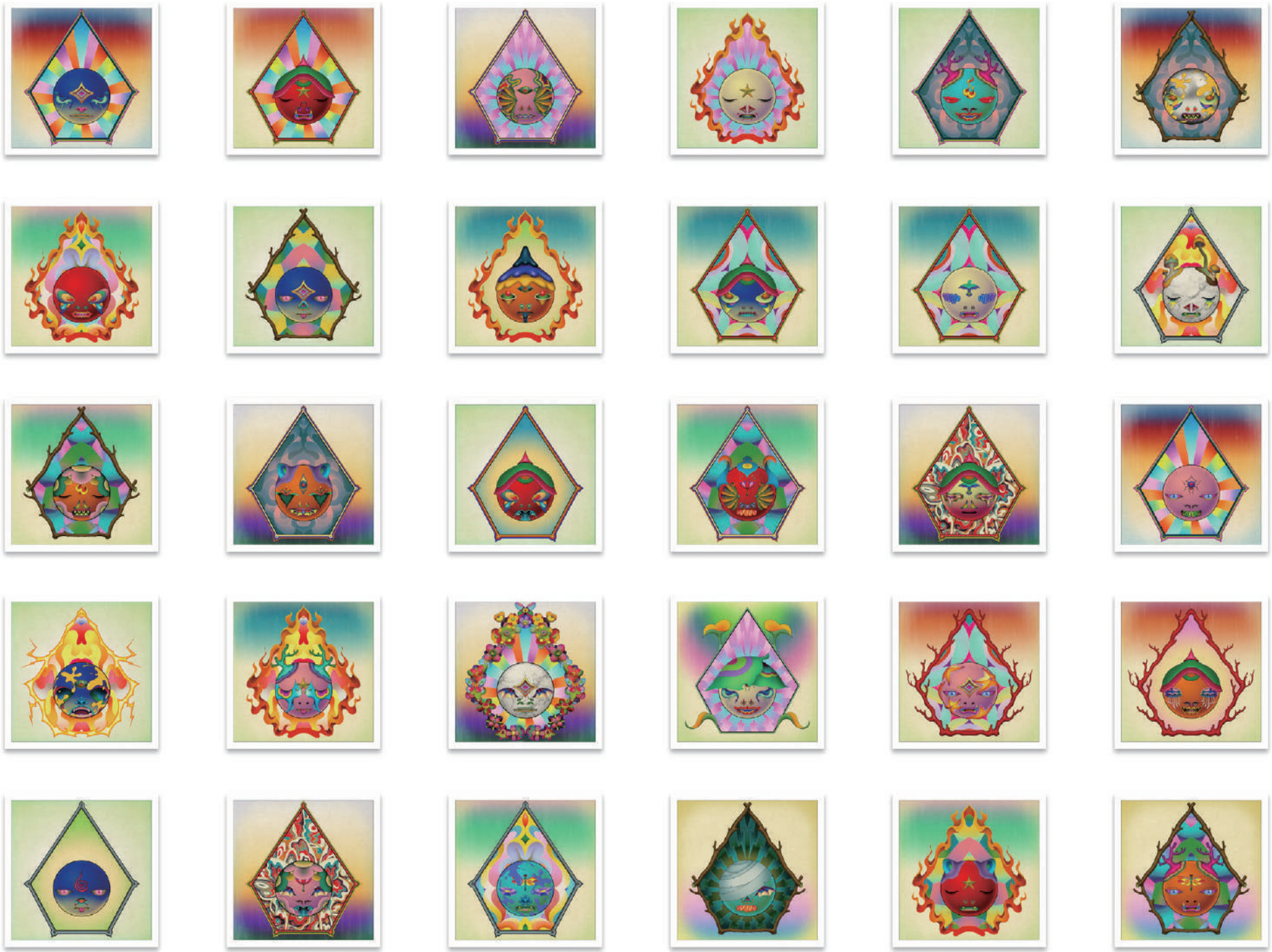


MOTHER!, 2017



THE SHAPE OF WATER, 2017

NFTS



FRAGMENTS is a series of 7,000 NFTs by James Jean, the artist's first PFP collection. This new body of work presents a series of fantastical characters distilled from the artist's imagination. FRAGMENTS is inspired by a forth-coming architectural pavilion by the artist, titled Pagoda, that will be composed of 7,000 stained-glass pieces. FRAGMENTS is minted as an edition size of 7,000 NFTs to reflect the physical sculpture, and will exist on the blockchain as a means of eternalizing the Pagoda.

EXHIBITIONS



PAGODA. SPRAYPAINT, INK, AND ACRYLIC ON 84 WOOD PANELS, 192 X 112", 2012. JACK TILTON GALLERY.



AZIMUTH. INSTALLATION VIEWS, KAIKAI KIKI GALLERY, 2018.

LOTTE MUSEUM OF ART



ETERNAL JOURNEY, LOTTE MUSEUM OF ART, SEOUL, 2019.



ETERNAL JOURNEY, LOTTE MUSEUM OF ART, SEOUL, 2019.

ETERNAL SPIRAL



ETERNAL SPIRAL, MODERN ART MUSEUM , SHANGHAI, 2022.



ETERNAL SPIRAL, MODERN ART MUSEUM , SHANGHAI, 2022.



ETERNAL SPIRAL, MODERN ART MUSEUM , SHANGHAI, 2022

ETERNAL SPIRAL II



ETERNAL SPIRAL II, A4 ART MUSEUM , CHENGDU, 2023.



ETERNAL SPIRAL II, A4 ART MUSEUM , CHENGDU, 2023.



ETERNAL SPIRAL II, A4 ART MUSEUM , CHENGDU, 2023.

ETERNAL SPIRAL III



ETERNAL SPIRAL III, SWCAC, SHENZHEN, 2023



ETERNAL SPIRAL III, SWCAC, SHENZHEN, 2023



ETERNAL SPIRAL III, SWCAC, SHENZHEN, 2023

ETERNAL SPIRAL IV



ETERNAL SPIRAL IV, TODAY ART MUSEUM, BEIJING, 2024.



ETERNAL SPIRAL IV, TODAY ART MUSEUM, BEIJING, 2024.



ETERNAL SPIRAL IV, TODAY ART MUSEUM, BEIJING, 2024.

CV

JAMES JEAN

Born in 1979, Taipei, Taiwan.

EDUCATION

1997-2001 B.F.A. The School of Visual Arts, New York, NY B.F.A

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Eternal Spiral IV*, TODAY ART Museum, Beijing, China

2023 *Eternal Spiral III*, Sea World Culture and Arts Center, Shenzhen, China

2023 *Eternal Spiral II*, A4 Art Museum, Chengdu, China

2022 *Eternal Spiral*, Modern Art Museum, Shanghai, China

2021 *Seven Phases*, HYBE Insight Museum, Seoul, South Korea

2019 *Eternal Journey*, Lotte Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

2018 *Azimuth*, Kaikai Kiki Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2015 *Zugzwang*, Hidari Zingaro Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2013 *Parallel Lives*, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, NY

2011 *Rebus*, Martha Otero Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2009 *Kindling*, Jonathan Levine Gallery, New York, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *Running*, Qingdao Art Museum, Qingdao, China

2021 *The Eyes Have It*, Lehman College Art Gallery, Bronx, NY

2020 *Show Me The Signs*, Blum and Poe Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

- 2016 *Juxtapoz X Superflat*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 2016 *Guillermo del Toro: At Home with Monsters*, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 *Juxtapoz X Superflat*, Pivot Art + Culture, Seattle, WA
- 2016 *Takashi Murakami's Superflat Collection – From Shōhaku and Rosanjin to Anselm Kiefer –*, Yokohama Art Museum, Yokohama, Japan
- 2014 *Masterworks*, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA
- 2014 *SuperAwesome*, Oakland Museum of Art, Oakland, CA
- 2013 *Vitruvius*, Martha Otero Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 *City of Fire*, Stephen Webster, Beverly Hills, CA
- 2012 *Gin & Juice*, Ivory & Black Soho, London, UK
- 2011 *Rebus Book Release*, Art Catalogues, Ahmanson Building, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 *Oniomania*, Martha Otero Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 *L.A. Secret Studio*, Parco Factory, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 *GR Biennale*, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 *Just In: Recent Acquisitions from the Collection*, Leonard Dobbs Gallery, Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 2008 *Beyond Baby Tattooville*, Members Gallery, Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, CA
- 2006 *Panelists 2*, Giant Robot Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 *Black and White*, Compound Gallery, Portland, OR
- 2006 *Unforgiving*, The Changing Room, New York, NY
- 2005 *Idols of Perversity*, Bellwether Gallery, New York, NY

- 2005 *Soothsayers*, Scion Installation Space, Culver City, CA
- 2005 *Characters, Scene II*, Silvermine Guild Arts Ceter, New Canaan, CT
- 2005 *Characters, Scene I*, Shore Institute of Contemporary Art, NJ
- 2001 *International Printmaking Competition*, SoHo20 Gallery, New York, NY

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Shanghai, China. Modern Art Museum. *Eternal Spiral*.
- 2019 Seoul, Korea. Lotte Museum of Art. *Eternal Journey*.
- 2018 Los Angeles, CA. OVM. *Azimuth*.
- 2015 Tokyo, Japan. PIE Books. *Pareidolia*.
- 2015 Los Angeles, CA. OVM. *Xenograph*.
- 2011 San Francisco, CA. Chronicle Books. *Rebus*.
- 2010 San Francisco, CA. Chronicle Books. *Rift*.
- 2009 San Francisco, CA. Chronicle Books. *Kindling: 12 Removable Prints*.
- 2009 Richmond, VA. AdHouse Books. *Process Recess: The Hallowed Seam*, vol. 3. Text by James Jean
- 2008 San Francisco, CA. Chronicle Books. *XOXO: Hugs and Kisses (Postcard Book)*.
- 2008 New York, NY. DC/Vertigo Comics. *Fables: Covers by James Jean*. Texts by James Jean and Bill Willingham
- 2007 Richmond, VA. AdHouse Books. *Process Recess*, vol. 2. Text by James Jean
- 2005 Richmond, VA. AdHouse Books. *Process Recess*, vol. 1. Texts by James Jean and Paul Pope

AWARDS

- 2008 *Bronze Lion*, Cannes Lions Festival 2008, Cannes, France.
- 2008 *Best Packaging Design (Nomination)*, Grammy Award, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 *Best Cover Artist*, Eisner Award, San Diego, CA
- 2008 *Best Publication Design*, Eisner Award, San Deigo, CA
- 2007 *Gold Medal*, Society of Illustrators, New York, NY
- 2007 *Best Cover Artist*, Eisner Award, San Diego, CA
- 2007 *Best Short Story*, Eisner Award, San Diego, CA.
- 2007 *Best Cover Artist*, Harvey Award
- 2007 *Gold Medal*, Society of Illustrators, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 *Best Cover Artist*, Eisner Award, San Diego, CA
- 2006 *Best Cover Artist*, Harvey Award
- 2005 *Best Cover Artist*, Eisner Award, San Diego, CA
- 2005 *Best Cover Artist*, Harvey Award
- 2004 *Best Cover Artist*, Eisner Award, San Diego, CA
- 2001 *Alan M. Goffman Award*, New York, NY
- 2000 *Gold Medal*, Society of Illustrators, Los Angeles, CA
- 2000 *Gilbert Stone Award*, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- 2000 *Jellybean Photographics Millenium Award*, New York, NY

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 2021 Koenigsegg Custom Wraps
- 2021 Yohji Yamamoto Capsule Collection and HOMME 2021-2022 A/W Collection
- 2017 Prada Menswear S/S 2018 Collection
- 2017 Prada Resort 2018 Collection
- 2013 *Velum*, Installation at Lane Crawford, Hong Kong, China
- 2010 *Birds and Boys*, Installation at 3.1 Phillip Lim, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 *Trembled Blossoms*, Animated Film for Prada S/S 2008 Collection
- 2007 Wallpaper & Fabric Prints for Prada S/S 2008 Collection

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2012 *Lecture*, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA.
- 2011 *Lecture*, RISD, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2009 *OFFSET*, Dublin, Ireland
- 2009 *Semi-Permanent*, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2009 Institute of Contemporary Art, London, UK
- 2008 *Atlanta Art Forum*, Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta, GA
- 2007 *Semi-Permanent*, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- 2007 *Lecture and Demonstration*, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
- 2005 *Lecture and Demonstration*, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

MUSEUM AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA

LOTTE Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

Colección SOLO, Madrid, Spain

N's Yard, Nasushiobara, Japan