

## JIHA MOON: MEGAXISCAPE

MARCH 20 – APRIL 27, 2008

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 6 PM – 8 PM

MOTI HASSON GALLERY is very pleased to announce the opening of **MEGAXISCAPE**, a special project by **JIHA MOON** that takes place from **MARCH 20 TO APRIL 27, 2008** and will be **HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXHIBITION, ZIPORA FRIED and ASIAN CONTEMPORARY ART WEEK 2008** (May 15-24; <http://www.acaw.net/index.html>). Please join us for the **OPENING RECEPTION ON THURSDAY, MARCH 20, FROM 6 TO 8 PM**. The artist will be in attendance.

Known for her range of intimate to large-scale works on Hanji paper, Moon literally expands on her visual vocabulary for her special project at Moti Hasson Gallery, where she will unveil a 32 foot-long painting that drapes down from the ceiling and across the floor, with the addition of sculptural elements.

“Jiha Moon’s lyrical ink-and-acrylic paintings are,” as critic Nord Wennerstrom states, “remarkable balancing acts that choreograph a maelstrom of lines and shapes to conjure imagery that is both familiar and alien, abject and beautiful” (*Artforum*, December 2007). This time, Moon combines her experiences living within diverse cultures ranging from her native Korea to Atlanta, Georgia, where she currently resides, to create her largest and most ambitious work to date.

Incorporating her trademark style and using Asian scroll painting as her inspiration, Moon expounds upon this form to create a waterfall-like vista that can be observed from multiple perspectives. Helping to extend her lush visual landscape into the reality of the viewer’s experience is Moon’s introduction of sculptural components into her work. In **MEGAXISCAPE**, visible markers that reference ceramic figures through material and color—specifically 12<sup>th</sup> century Korean “Goryeo” celadon porcelain and 18<sup>th</sup> century Chinese blue and white porcelain—are used to anchor her scroll onto the floor. Also reminiscent of scholar’s rocks, animated shapes and brushstrokes, the addition of sculptures not only extend Moon’s visual lexicon but also showcase how her hybrid style provides viewers with the opportunity to bear witness to the process of the work’s creation.

Moon, who was trained in both the east and in the west, exemplifies a generation of artists of Asian descent whose work span iconography from both worlds. As Wennerstrom further notes, Moon’s work “eschews the warmed-over Pop imagery that characterizes some contemporary Asian art, which makes [her work] arresting and amusing, a discreet but effective cipher for unbridled cultural cross-pollination”. Closer examination of **MEGAXISCAPE** evidences the complex relationships between a multitude of influences, most notably, the history and impact of Asian landscape painting on western abstraction and the “reversal of fortune” given the current interest and rising market value of contemporary Asian art. Ultimately, through **MEGAXISCAPE**, Moon reflects upon the challenges that come from living within transitory states of being. By testifying to the ongoing challenges eschewed through cultural identities claimed or assigned, Moon’s project reinforces how our status as “global citizens” is merely relative and just how easily this position can shift depending on where you stand. -IC

# MOTI HASSON GALLERY

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**JIHA MOON** received her Master of Arts from the University of Iowa in 2002. Her work has been showcased at premier New York venues including Asia Society, The Drawing Center, and White Columns, and in other solo and group exhibitions worldwide. Her work is currently being featured in *VantagePoint VII: Jiha Moon* at The Mint Museum (Charlotte, 2008), and has been showcased in recent exhibitions at Moti Hasson Gallery (New York, 2007), Curator's Office (Washington, 2007), and Miki Wik Kim Contemporary (Zurich, Switzerland, 2007), among others. She has been selected for international residencies at Art Omi, Acadia Summer Art Program (Kippy Kamp), Singapore Tyler Print Institute through the Asia Society, and The Headlands Center for the Arts, among numerous grants and awards. Moon, whose work is part of such prestigious collections as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington; Asia Society and Museum, New York; The Mint Museum, North Carolina; and the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Virginia, has been critically acclaimed by *Artforum*, *The New York Times*, *Art Papers*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Sun*, among many international publications. Born in 1973 in Taegu, Korea, Jiha Moon currently lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia.

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**MOTI HASSON GALLERY**, located in a 4,000 square-foot ground floor space in Chelsea at 535 West 25th Street designed by Architect Mark Dubois, first opened in January 2005 in New York's Hell's Kitchen. In the past few years, Moti Hasson Gallery has established itself as a destination for the presentation of an innovative program, and in foregrounding premier solo and group exhibitions by an international array of artists. With an eye on the larger field of international art-making, the Gallery works with leading arts professionals in developing the careers of the artists it showcases through exhibitions, art fairs, catalogues, special events, projects, and public programs.

Gallery hours are Monday to Saturday, from 10 - 8 pm, Sunday, from 12 - 6 pm, and by appointment. For more information or to receive images, please contact the gallery at 212-268-4444 or email [info@motihasson.com](mailto:info@motihasson.com).