

Ikebana, the study of traditional Japanese flower arrangement embodies an intense spiritual commitment and respect to one's place in a given environment. As an Amerasian artist who studied the art of Ikebana for many years, I include the spiritual aspect of this art in my large-scale object driven installations. My goal is to invent a contemporary visual language inspired from the traditional tools of Ikebana within a chosen visual space. The fleeting surfaces of my installations create a spiritual space of contemplation and memory. The 6-foot 'spiral' unravels from the ceiling in a gesture similar to that of the retracing of memories. These events are represented using traditional materials such as wax, silk flowers and thread that are transformed physically which enables them to chart a contemporary space. For my most recent work I have been constructing a series of drawings as visual tales or short stories. They are the result of the direct gravure print process on which I 'sew' and 'draw' the stories directly on the print using embroidery thread and ball-point ink.

Marie Yoho Dorsey