

As an extension of the *Oneself* series that has started in 2007, I have developed a contour line displacing technique to express a mood or condition that I am in. Using outlines that do not lay exactly on top of another, I try to affirm how necessary uncertainty is in the creative process.

What is different from the *Oneself* series in terms of techniques is that the evidence of layering and mark-making is reiterated. The fundamental logic for painting has shifted from “collaging” to “layering”. The painting process here is similar to the printmaking process; every layer has to come in order and has its own significance.

Instant noodle and homemade noodle are different. Instant noodle is processed food that is manufactured with food coloring and artificial seasoning that follow a predetermined ratio and recipe. Within mere three minutes of cooking in boiling water, the noodle is ready to be served. On the other hand, homemade noodle is made according to the maker’s experience and technique. Accompanied by a particular broth or stew and cooked over time, homemade noodle often comes with a unique personal flair.

I do not intend to use this association as means to describe my art making process. Instead, it is a constant reminder that encourages me to better develop my art making technique. In comparison with the way I work between 2004 and 2006, I now work with less impulsiveness. As I concentrate on creating atmosphere with colors, I also frequently ask myself, “What should I paint next?”

“Raining Heavily Inside” is a title of Franz Kafka’s short story. The surreal narrative reflects Kafka’s emotional and psychological state. The artist’s fear and panic, through his familiar media, has found their outlet.

By Shiao Chufang