

Byron Kim

American, 1961

Synecdoche

1991

Oil and wax on lauan plywood

National Gallery of Art

Synecdoche, created by Byron Kim, is an extensive piece in the sense of its dimensions and process of creation. Utilizing 10 x 8-inch panels as a form of abstraction, Kim's use of color and hue, along with grid creates a sense of unison. This allows for the piece to be viewed as a whole, not just through the individual panels. Further viewing and exposure suggests a sense of peace or calmness, rooted from the warm welcoming color, like that of a skin tone.

Defined as utilizing parts to create or depict a whole, *Synecdoche* utilizes smaller abstract portraits to present a diverse world. By stepping out of his studio, Kim made use of color matching to replicate skin tones of individuals in the surrounding community. In Kim's own eyes, the small individual panels depict the work, while the work depicts all of us.

Born in La Jolla California, Kim would eventually begin his own exploration into the representational and abstract world, spanning much of his career. Many of Kim's first and oldest works touch on and investigate identity politics utilizing abstract qualities. Today Kim has moved away from abstraction, painting from recollection or past experiences. Utilizing subtle changes to emphasize detailed and direct examination from viewers.

References

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