



## About the 2011 Poster Artist, Seung Lee

By Laura Patten

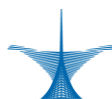
South Korean-born Seung Lee believes art should be a fusion of two schools: art for art's sake, which he calls art-like art, and art for social and political reasons, life-like art. Chosen as the Lakefront Festival of Arts (LFOA) 2011 poster artist, Lee explains his featured multicolor woodblock print he calls *Watertown*.

"It means happiness, harmony," he says, noting that there's symbolism throughout all his prints. Look carefully, and you might find fish, which represent good luck, says Lee. "The number seven represents every day of the week, so if there are seven fish, this means every day of the week brings good luck," he explains. "Twelve apples represent a good harvest for every month of the year. Hot and cold colors together reveal the balance of opposites, creating harmony. It's like a life story," he continues.

Lee began his art career as a painter, which inspired him to approach differently the traditional woodcut. He combines painting with printmaking so each layer of his prints has a painterly effect. Lee's prints require 12 to 20 stages of carving and printing before his image is complete, and he emphasizes that lines are meaningful in his art.

"The Chinese brushstroke is like the movements of tai chi: smooth and connecting. The Japanese brushstroke is like Zen Buddhism: explosive with energy after calm meditation. I study the line by virtue of its consequence," he explains.

Visitors who attend Lakefront Festival of Arts can meet Lee and study more of his woodprints, which are available for sale. Lee, who has previously exhibited at LFOA, says he's looking forward to his repeat trip to Milwaukee. "I've seen very good artists at the festival. To be among them, to be selected as the poster artist, is a great honor," he says.



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