

## Artists Statement 2009

Stephanie Kim

The concept of the "Lonely Oasis" permeates the description of why I engage with the art-making process. From early in life the experience of separation and aloneness caused in me a deep sense of longing and hope for identification with the 'refuge'. This isn't a new or unique experience but one that is shared by many. When the world comes crashing in and a sense of personal identification with suffering takes hold, then a hiding place is sought. In this place anyone can be true to himself or herself and obtain a sense of comfort. It is an ideal state imposed on the real state being endured.

I try to find what is behind things. When I make art I'm not trying to copy what I see but uncover the feelings in image making that resonate with my own internal oasis or refuge. Image making then becomes an exercise in self-comfort or affirmation. A flower or landscape becomes the vehicle for connection with the natural world. The work has no connection with commercial aims but remains a means by which to find the illusive connection to the melancholic echo beneath the natural order of things. In simple terms, the process of art is in fact, remedial.

Whether through painting, drawing or etching, I continue to search for the link that brings me a deep sense of wholeness and satisfaction. My work is influenced by the poetic mystery of nature and the timeless questions posed by human existence. As each picture unfolds, a real sense of belonging floods through me. I'm transported to my deserted island where I can be myself, where reassurance of life is found and an undeniable curiosity is continually provoked and satisfied. The emergence of each image acts like the frames in a film simultaneously playing me into the future and back to the past, from oasis to desert and from certainty to uncertainty and then, back again.