

**Andre Lee Bassuet**  
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**Artist Statement:**

Clothes hold intimate memories and are vessels of personal biographies. This *hanbok* (Korean traditional dress) is made from used curtains and used tablecloth printed with cyanotypes of chrysanthemum flowers as well as writings in Korean and English. Both curtains and tablecloth represent objects of service.

Chrysanthemums are used to symbolize love, devotion and loyalty and are often used to represent beauty, grace and elegance. Yet blue chrysanthemums are also associated with death and mourning and are seen as a symbol of grief and loss. Using flowers as a metaphor and identity, they represent the Korean women who have suffered *Han* under the patriarchal social system.

*Han* means a collective feeling of unresolved resentment against injustices suffered and has deep feelings of sorrow, anguish, shame and anger and an urge to take revenge. Women were expected to work as housekeepers, raise children and be servants to the men. The dress has pockets with generational stories of my grandmother, my mother, my sister-in-law and a forgotten sister, playing with the idiom “to be in one’s pocket” or under one’s influence and control. My chrysanthemums have embroidery that mimic blood dripping and they look like flowers fiercely baring their teeth. They represent the anguish and suffering and the urge to take revenge.

**Biography:**

Andre Lee Bassuet is an artist, designer and educator based in Rhode Island. As a bicultural Korean American, she's lived between two cultures and seeks her roots by exploring work on the body, nature and memory. She completed her MFA at Osaka University of Arts on a Monbusho scholarship and a Bachelors from New York University.

She has participated in artist residencies at Wedding Cakehouse, AS220 and Manhattan Graphics Center and exhibited in New York, Providence, Michigan, Florida, Seattle, Red Lodge, Kyoto, Osaka, and Shanghai. Her bookarts are in the Columbia University Libraries, Harvard Fine Art Library, John Hay Library, MassArt Libraries, RISD Fleet Library collection, Western Michigan University's Special Collections as well as private collections. She is currently teaching the Art of the Book at Brown University and printmaking at Newport Art Museum.

**Exhibitions:**

- 2023 *HAN*, Culture House, Washington, DC
- 2023 *Roots: Korean Diaspora*, Aborn Gallery, Providence, RI
- 2023 *Art & Poetic Text*, Cultural Center of Cape Cod, South Yarmouth, MA
- 2022 *The Book as Art V.10: Transformation*, Decatur Library, Decatur, GA
- 2022 *Solo Exhibition*, Block Island Airport Gallery, Block Island, RI