

Formative Experience and Influences

Jin-Me Yoon - Clip 10

My formative experiences as an artist. Well, one thing, I traveled a lot. And I think traveling to different places in the world gives you self-consciousness about your own limits, and also the inherent parochialism of our everyday lives, wherever we're situated. And that's very important to me. The Vancouver art community has been an important source for me in the sense that it was, it's a rigorous, challenging set of practices that emerge from Vancouver. And also feminists that came into the Vancouver community... When I came into the art world in the eighties was a very exciting time. I think there were a lot of influential people. Many Canadian artists that really worked hard, in the artist run centers, to establish an independent mode of working apart from institutional legitimization, and also the market. [Who] wanted to have their own say as artists and control, you know, the distribution and circulation, etc. That moment. So I'm indebted to Canadian artists. ...Certain communities, artists of colour, or whatever nomenclature which seems appropriate, were also influential in terms of understanding and working on discourses around race, ethnicity, identity, sexuality, etc. So all those confluences, and the way that they sometimes didn't cohere with each other, were important to me. I also draw a

tremendous amount of strength from my friends who are artists, and poets, musicians. I've met many interesting, enlightening, difficult intellectuals that have informed my path. Whether I've met them directly, sometimes I've met them in their work. It's been a tremendous gift that way. My inspiration also comes from my family. I have a wonderful extended family.

