



Title: *Building Reflection No 5*

Artist: **C.J. Yao**

Date: **1981**

Size: **22.0" x 29"**

Medium: **Silkscreen Print**

Accession #: **2011.5.35**

Additional works in the collection by the artist? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒ **X**



MoFA
Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts

Influence

The work of Richard Estes had a major influence on Yao's graphic style. Yao, like Estes, focused on the city landscape and its reflective surfaces. Richard Estes is an American painter best known for his photorealistic (hyperrealistic) paintings of city landscapes. He is regarded as one of the founders of the photo-realist movement of the late 1960's. Estes studied at the Art Institute of Chicago (1952-1956). After completing his studies he moved to New York City where he worked as a graphic artist for various magazines and advertisers for the next ten years. Estes currently lives between New York and Maine where he paints his local landscapes.



Times Square (2004) by Richard Estes. Oil on Canvas, 37.0"x 64.0"

Related Terminology:

Silkscreen Printing : a printmaking technique in which a mesh cloth is stretched over a heavy wooden frame and the design, stenciled on the screen, is printed by having a squeegee force color through the pores of the material in areas not blocked by a glue sizing.

Hyperrealism: a genre of painting and sculpture resembling a high-resolution photograph. Hyperrealism is considered an advancement of Photorealism by the methods used to create the resulting paintings, sculptures, or other art imagery.

Artist's Biography:

C.J. Yao was born in 1941 in Taichung, Tawan and was one of the premiere Taiwanese painters in the 70s. He graduated from the National Taiwan Normal University before making his way to New York in 1970. Yao categorizes himself as a hyperrealist and considers Richard Estes as a great influence on his style. He is best known for the work within his *Reflections* series. *Building Reflection No 5* is part of that series. Yao was also hired as the first overseas artist to permanently instruct in mainland China. He first lectured there in 1983, then became a permanent instructor there in 1985. Yao died about 2000-2001.

Reflections Series

Building Reflection No 5 belongs to Yao's *Reflections* series of hyperrealistic portraits of the city. Most of the pieces in the series are paintings of the streets of New York City. His paintings combine Mondrian-like grids of window frames and the distortions given by the reflected buildings. He sought to highlight the beauty reflected off the windows that city dwellers nonchalantly walk past everyday. The works included in the *Reflections* series capture the spirit and energy within the cityscape.



Wall Street (1974) by C.J. Yao.

Acrylic on Canvas, 50.0" x 63.5", part of *Reflections Series*

References:

<https://cijyogallery.com/about-ciyao/>
<https://www.brightcolors.com/product/c-j-yao-building-reflection-no5-1981-art-silkscreen-on-somerset-paper/>
<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/artist/richard-estes>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Estes
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screen_printing
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperrealism_\(visual_arts\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperrealism_(visual_arts))
Completed Summer 2018 by Kendrik Branch



Coca Cola #4 (1981) by C.J. Yao.
Silkscreen Print
22.0" x 23.5"

Reflection on Reflections

- 1.) What is the title of your hyperrealistic photo?
- 2.) Identify the photo. Describe the reflection.
- 3.) Where did you find this reflection?
- 4.) Give a reason you liked this reflection.

Observing Hyperrealist Artists (K-5)

Session Activity: The following activity will provide students with an opportunity to research Yao and other hyperrealist artists' styles. By exploring the environment around them, students will gain an understanding of these artists' interpretations of everyday life.

Objective:

- 1.) Students will achieve an understanding of the way hyperrealist artists interpret the world around them.
- 2.) By observing their surroundings, students will create images that emulate these artists.

Activity Procedures:

- 1.) Students will be introduced to Yao's reflection series and the idea of hyperrealism in art.
- 2.) Students will then participate in a scavenger hunt to find reflections around campus (hallway windows, mirrors, shiny floors). Either the teacher will take photos of the reflections or provide disposable cameras to students to take pictures which resemble the *Reflections Series*.
- 3.) A powerpoint will be created by the teacher using student's photos.
- 4.) Students will each provide a statement for the powerpoint identifying their reflection images while also giving titles for them. Each student will also state a reason he/she was attracted to this reflection.
- 5.) The powerpoint will be shown to the class.

Materials: Digital/ disposable cameras, computer & projection technology, powerpoint of images taken, Reflection on Reflections worksheet

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (K-5)

Big Idea: Critical Thinking and Reflection

Enduring Understanding 1: Cognition and reflection are required to appreciate, interpret, and create with artistic intent.

VA.3.C.1.2

Reflect on and interpret works of art, using observation skills, prior knowledge, and experience.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (6-12)

Big Idea: Organizational Structure

Enduring Understanding 1: Understanding the organizational structure of an art form provides a foundation for appreciation of artistic works and respect for the creative process.

VA.912.O.1.3

Research and use the techniques and processes of various artists to create personal works.

Recreating the Hyperrealist Style (6-12)

Session Activity: The following activity will provide students with an opportunity to research and recreate Yao and others' hyperrealistic styles.

Objective: Students will gain a better understanding of the way hyperrealist artists thought about the world around them while designing their works.

Activity Procedures:

- 1.) Students will be introduced to Yao's *Reflection Series* and the hyperrealist movement.
- 2.) Students will independently conduct research and find examples of Yao's and others' hyperrealist works.
- 3.) Students will take pictures around the city to recreate the aesthetic accomplished by Yao and his contemporaries.
- 4.) Students will mount an exhibition of the photos taken to include artists' statements describing the aspects of hyperrealism that inspired elements within the photos.

Materials: Digital/ disposable cameras, computers, photo paper, paper, materials needed for an exhibition