



# MYUNG JIN CHOI: *INCIPIENCE*

THE CLAY STUDIO

SEPTEMBER 1 — 24, 2006

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THE CLAY  
STUDIO

MYUNG JIN CHOI: *INCIPIENCE*  
2005-2006 Evelyn Shapiro Foundation Fellow





## Ceramics

My work is based on research that personally interests me. Scientific theories such as fractals, chaos, and complexity stimulate my curiosity and motivate my creativity. My sculptures and installations seek to express the coexistence of order and disorder in art, philosophy, and our world.

A fractal is a geometric figure in which an identical motif repeats itself on an ever-diminishing scale. It is the graphic representation of a mathematical equation in the complex plane, obtained by "iterating" the results of the equation. Chaos is the idea that it is possible to get completely random results from normal equations. Fractals are related to chaos because they are complex systems that have definite properties. A complexity is neither completely deterministic nor completely random and it exhibits both characteristics.

I was drawn to the bizarrely beautiful fractal images and perception of mathematics as a body of sterile formulas. Fractal geometry mixes art with mathematics to demonstrate that equations are more than just a collection of numbers. I approach this scientific system, encompassing visualization, repetition, sequences, relationships of text to image, and varied methods of transformation, into three-dimensional sculpture and installation work. I investigate this complex motion and the dynamics of sensitive chaotic systems in order to translate both nature's irregular movements and my personal experiences into my work.

Conceptually, the fractal-geometric shape that is very complex and infinitely detailed is also related to the eastern philosophy Samsara (transmigrationism). I understand this philosophy as the circle of life: The universe is a macrocosm that I am a part of on a microcosmic level. It is like the relationship between the cosmos and a human, a human and a cell. My works are characterized by a kind of built-in similarity; a motile figure, the pattern, or motif keeps repeating. I strive for a new whole that consists of an ensemble of objects or effects that work together by connecting each unit, each whole unique to the space in which it is installed. I use the fractal format as a method to create my sculptures and installations. I make work that offers psychological dialogue in the space between the work, the viewer, and myself.

My work places emphasis on psychological movement which combines nature's order and art's disorder or vice versa. The works that have organic movements, a variety of colors, patterns, and narrative stories will stimulate the viewer's subconscious.



### Special thanks to:

Stanley Shapiro, Bunny Glick, Jeff Guido, Wang Yong Lee, Mary Roehm, Walter Ostrom, Reena Kashyap, Barbara Sosson, Ruth Berelson, family, and friends, The Clay Studio staff, residents, and students

Photography: Joseph Painter  
Graphics: Sosson Design



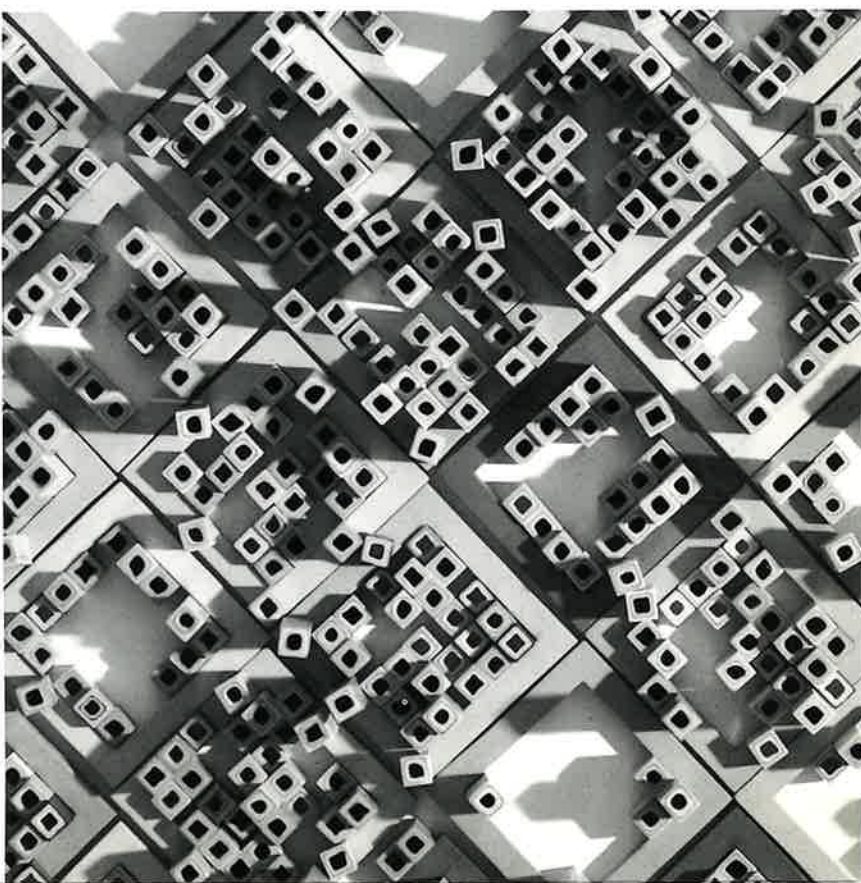
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The Evelyn Shapiro Foundation is pleased to present this exhibition of **Myung Jin Choi**. The work represents her explorations in clay during the past year as our fifteenth Fellow-in-residence at The Clay Studio. She was selected by a jury panel consisting of **Jeff Guido**, **Marlin Miller**, and **Kari Radasch** to whom we are deeply grateful. I continue to be indebted to the staff of The Clay Studio under **Amy Sarnier Williams'** direction for seamlessly providing the matrix of an enriching experience for our Fellows year after year. To our Members and Board of Directors, I extend my thanks for their loyal support and their contribution.

Stanley H. Shapiro, President

# INCIPIENCE



## BORN

1972 Hongsung, South Korea

## EDUCATION

2003 M.F.A., SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, New York  
2000 University of Houston, Houston, Texas  
1997 B.F.A. in Industrial Design, Kangnam University, Yong-In-Shi, South Korea

## AWARDS

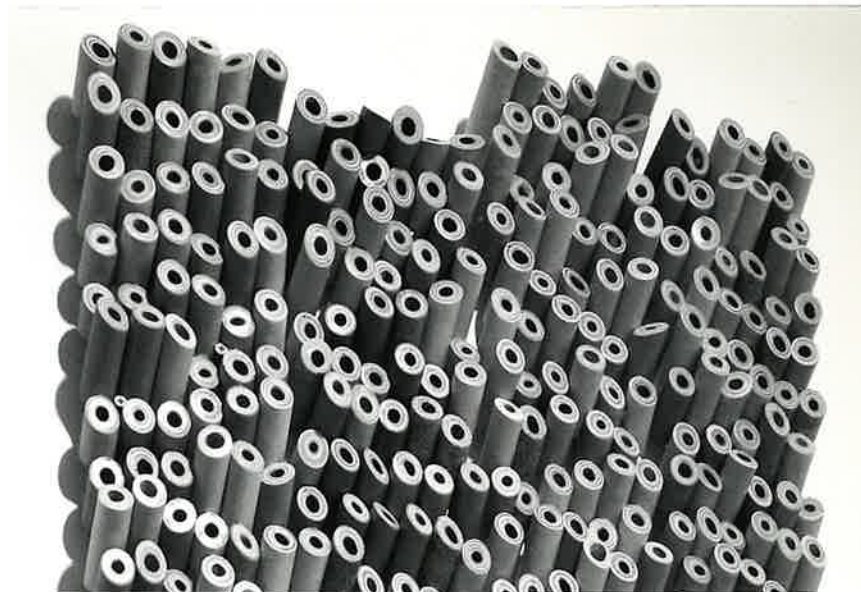
2005-06 The Evelyn Shapiro Foundation Fellowship, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
2005 Honorable Mention, *The 3rd World Ceramic Biennial*, Icheon, South Korea  
2003 Honorable Mention, *The 2nd World Ceramic Biennial*, Icheon, South Korea

## EXHIBITIONS

2006 *Incipience*, The Evelyn Shapiro Fellowship Solo Exhibition, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
2005 *Nature and Nature*, Solo Exhibition, Eubie Blake Cultural Center, Baltimore, Maryland  
*The 3rd World Ceramic Biennial*, Icheon World Ceramic Center, Icheon, South Korea  
*Watershed Kiln Gods, Looking Back 1997-2003*, NCECA 2005, Baltimore, Maryland  
*School's Out*, Catonsville Art Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland  
*Abstraction From Another Dimension*, Tribes Gallery and Gallery 128, New York City  
2004 *Relative Time*, Solo Exhibition, Clay Art Center, Port Chester, New York  
*The 7th Annual National Prize Show*, The Cambridge Art Association, The Kathryn Schultz Gallery, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
*SUNY Faculty Show*, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, New Paltz, New York  
2003 *The 2nd World Ceramic Biennial 2003*, CEBIKO International Competition, Icheon World Ceramic Center, Icheon, Korea  
*The Fifth Kingston Sculpture Biennial 2003*, The Arts Society of Kingston, Kingston, New York

## PUBLICATIONS

2006 *Sculpture*, September, volume 25, p. 13  
*Confrontational Ceramics* by Judith Schwartz, A & C Black, London, England  
2005 The 3rd World Ceramic Biennial, Korea. *World Ceramic Exposition Foundation* by Ki-Myong Nam, p. 96  
2004 *American Craft*, October/November, p. 90



## FOUNDATION MEMBERS

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