



FAITH

Huang Hsiao-Hui

Transparent watercolor on 300-lb. (640gsm) cold-pressed Arches
14" × 20" (36cm × 51cm)

A HIDDEN MESSAGE IN NATURAL BEAUTY

When I want to express a high degree of completeness of my artwork, I'll choose to paint in the studio, and I needed to contemplate this composition more than painting quickly on site would allow. At times, as in *Faith*, I love to hide messages in my paintings. Some conceal my story of growing up, and some communicate my feelings towards how the society and civil environment have been changed. But I do not try to tell a story; my purpose is to create a scene of natural beauty to touch people. I use layering, wet-into-wet, most of the time. Sometimes I use glazing, applying layer after layer to achieve the desired effect. Gradually building up layers is very time-consuming, but the end results make it worthwhile. I don't paint a scene as it is, but rearrange objects to ensure the wholeness of an ideal composition.

Keep in mind the initial "wow" moment that made you want to create your painting all the way to the end. —Chizuru Morii Kaplan



ST. PATRICK'S, NYC

Chizuru Morii Kaplan

Transparent watercolor with white gouache on 140-lb. (300-lb.) rough Arches
72" × 52" (183cm × 132cm)

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF UNSUNG PEOPLE

I often paint classic European buildings. I ponder the history and mythic scale of human effort that have gone into these creations over centuries. On a summer day in 2014, I passed St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York and found it covered in scaffolding, superimposing a geometric grid on top of its neo-Gothic form. Although only 135 years old—young compared to my European subjects—St. Patrick's needed restoration to reverse the effects of time and the elements. But once the work is complete, the scaffolding disappears and those people's efforts forgotten. Yet the lives of those involved behind the scene are forever infused into the history of this beautiful structure. These thoughts inspired me to create this painting.

