



Third

John Hee Taek Chae

May 15th - June 20th, 2026

Opening Reception: May 15th 6-8pm

79 Leonard St, SBE
New York, NY 10013



D. D. D. is happy to announce John Hee Taek Chae's upcoming solo exhibition with the gallery, to open May 15th, 6 - 8 pm.

Titled *Third*, this marks the first solo exhibition of Chae's work since the gallery's relocation to our Leonard Street location, and his third with the gallery overall. The title also refers to his newfound status as a father and his newborn son's identity as a third-generation Korean American, brought into the world as Chae enters his third year living in a rural part of western New York.

In this exhibition, the artist once again applies his intense scrutiny of the past, present, and future through found and excavated images. Sources of which range from "Hometown Heroes" banners often found in small towns to familial archives, current events, and the art histories of Korea, Europe, and the United States. The artist then uses his subjectivity as a sharp scalpel with which to dissect and reconfigure the realities that gave rise to these images. The resulting work takes the form of two-sided banners deep in affect with collapsed propaganda, and paintings of masks, both as historical remnants, and as those worn today.

Anchoring the exhibition are two large paintings by Chae, *Quilt* and *The Death of the Buddha*. *Quilt*, a reconstructed painting made from previous paintings and old military patches, serves as a record that traces through time the familial, personal, and professional. *The Death of the Buddha*, fittingly the third time Chae has painted the motif, attempts to reconcile such patchwork. The complex psychic and symbolic permutations of the exhibition find an allegorical moment of respite in the *Buddha* painting, where the central motif presents an alternative proposition, a site of meditations juxtaposed against unceasing re-generation.



John Hee Taek Chae | *Death of the Buddha (Summer)*, 2026

Oil on muslin
57 x 40 inches

(JHTC0076)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Death of the Buddha (Summer)*, Detail



John Hee Taek Chae | *And still the devil exists*, 2026
Oil on linen
48 x 36 inches

(JHTC0058)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Behemoth and Leviathan*, 2026

Oil on linen
48 x 36 inches

(JHTC0059)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Behemoth and Leviathan*, Detail



John Hee Taek Chae | *Agent (I)*, 2026

Oil on linen
10 x 8 inches

(JHTC0072)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Agent (2)*, 2026

Oil on linen
10 x 8 inches

(JHTC0073)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Agent (3)*, 2026

Oil on linen
10 x 8 inches

(JHTC0074)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Agent (4)*, 2026

Oil on linen
10 x 8 inches

(JHTC0075)



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John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero: The Hand that Feeds You and Farmstead in Passing Storm, 2026*

Oil, cyanotype, and graphite on muslin (with banner hardware)

30 x 24 inches

(JHTC0063)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:
The Hand that Feeds You and Farmstead
in Passing Storm*, (backside)

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John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*

Dead Eye, 2026

Oil, cyanotype, and graphite on muslin (with
banner hardware)

30 x 24 inches

(JHTC0060)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
Dead Eye, (backside)

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John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:
Imaginary Portrait of Lady Un made to
look like the Virgin Mary by Chae Yong
Shin, 2026*

Oil, cyanotype, and graphite on muslin (with
banner hardware)

30 x 24 inches

(JHTC0065)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
Imaginary Portrait of Lady Un made to look like
the Virgin Mary by Chae Yong Shin, (backside)

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John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:
Park Tae Son Sows the Olive Tree and A
Dancing Cowboy*, 2026

Oil, cyanotype, and graphite on muslin (with
banner hardware)

30 x 24 inches

(JHTC0062)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
Park Tae Son Sows the Olive Tree and
A Dancing Cowboy, (backside)

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John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
American Quilt, 2026
Oil, cyanotype, and graphite on muslin (with
banner hardware)
30 x 24 inches

(JHTC0066)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
American Quilt, (backside)

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John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
John Stewart Curry's John Brown, 2026
Oil, cyanotype, and graphite on muslin (with
banner hardware)
30 x 24 inches

(JHTC0064)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
John Stuart Curry's John Brown, (backside)

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John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*

Wide Eyes, 2026

Oil, cyanotype, and graphite on muslin (with
banner hardware)

30 x 24 inches

(JHTC0061)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
Wide Eyes, (backside)

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John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero:*
Blank Slate, 2026
Oil, cyanotype, and graphite on muslin (with
banner hardware)
30 x 24 inches

(JHTC0067)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Hometown Hero: Blank Slate*,
(backside)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Quilt*, 2025

Oil on canvas, muslin, and linen, hand-embroidered, 2nd Infantry Division Vietnam era patch, US Army Special forces

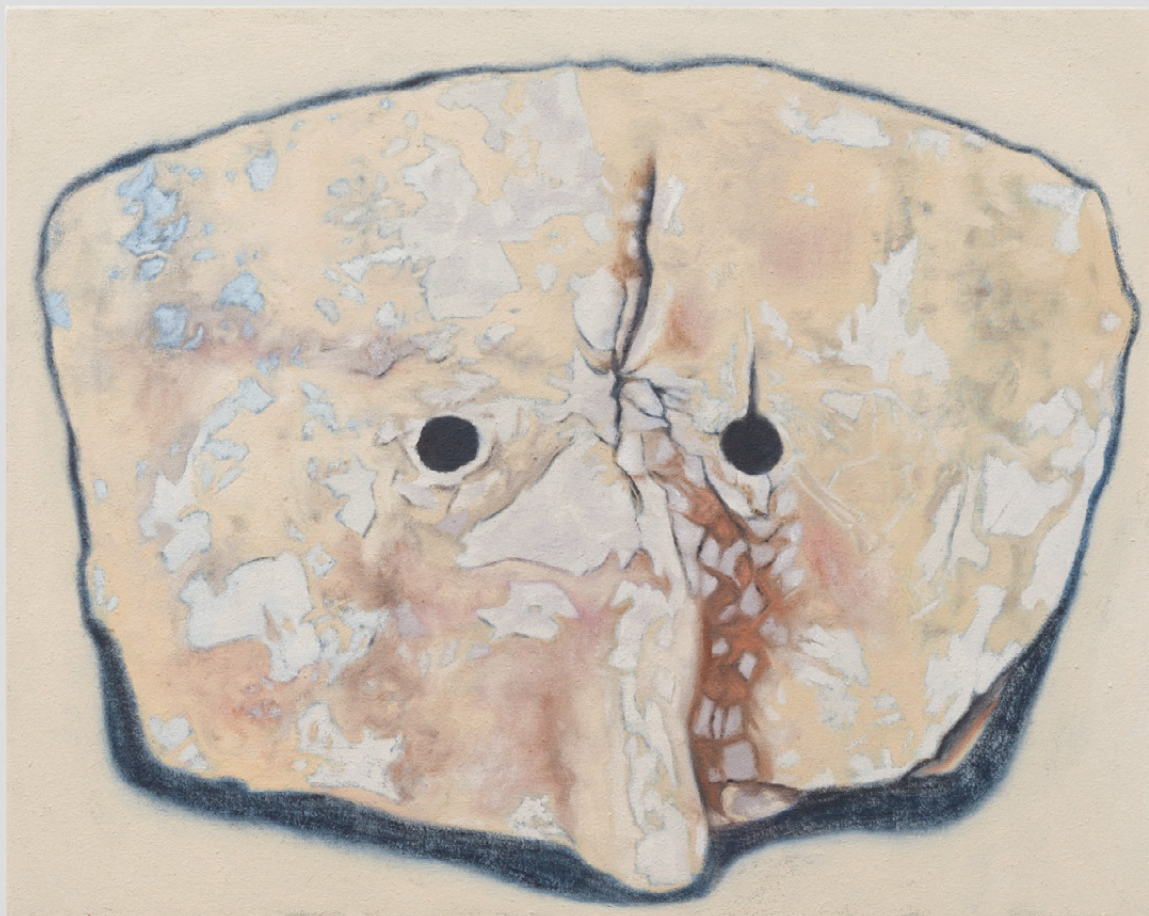
Vietnam War era military patch

56 x 56 inches

(JHTC0053)



John Hee Taek Chae | Quilt, Detail



John Hee Taek Chae | *White Mask*, 2025

Oil on muslin

11 x 14 inches

(JHTC077)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Specter*, 2026

Oil on linen

19.5 x 16.5 inches (framed)

(JHTC0070)





John Hee Taek Chae | *KVM00762*, 2026
Graphite on paper
19.5 x 15.5 inches (framed)

(JHTC0068)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Chandler Killed in Action*, 2026

Graphite on paper

15.5 x 19.5 inches (framed)

(JHTC0069)



John Hee Taek Chae | *Cahill and Cox in Action*, 2026

Graphite on paper

20.75 x 27.75 inches (framed)

(JHTC0071)

Artist Biography

John Hee Taek Chae (b. 1988) is an artist and educator whose work explores the hybridization and mutation of visual culture, primarily through the practice of painting. John received his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2010 and his MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2020. His previous solo exhibitions include *Hallucination* at D. D. D. D. (New York, NY), *A Dark and Bloody Ground* at Institute 193 (Lexington, KY), *Shed Your Eyes* at MARCH (New York, NY), and *Make. Believe.* at MOCA Jacksonville (Jacksonville, FL), among others. Chae was awarded the MacDowell Fellowship in 2021, was a Yaddo Fellow in 2022, and the Cynthia Wood Mitchell Scholar in Residence at the University of Houston in 2023. He has been on panels at The Hammer Museum and Maryland Institute College of Art and given guest lectures at Kent State University and the Rhode Island School of Design, and is currently an Assistant Professor in Painting and Drawing at the School of Art and Design at Alfred University.



Artist CV

Education

- 2010 Maryland Institute College of Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts / Painting Major and Art History Minor
- 2020 Virginia Commonwealth University, Master of Fine Arts / Painting and Printmaking

Exhibitions

- 2026 *Third*, D. D. D. D. , New York, NY (solo)
- 2026 *Keeper*, Indigo + Madder, London, UK (group)
- 2025 *Painting in Translation*, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, Alfred, NY (group)
- 2025 *Kunstpunkte*, Alfred-Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany (group)
- 2025 *Winter Paintings*, Amanita Gallery, New York, NY (group)
- 2025 *New Faculty Show*, Cohen Gallery, Alfred, NY (group)
- 2024 *NADA Miami*, D. D. D. D. , Miami, FL (art fair)
- 2024 *Space City: Art in the Age of Artemis*, Asia Society Texas, Houston, TX (group)
- 2024 *AHL Foundation Visual Artist Awards Exhibition*, AHL Foundation, New York, NY (group)
- 2024 *Kunstepunkte*, Alfred-Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany (group)
- 2024 *Hallucination*, D. D. D. D. , New York, NY (solo)
- 2024 *Southern Democratic*, The Carnegie, Covington, KY (group)
- 2023 *A Dark and Bloody Ground*, Lexington, KY (solo)
- 2023 *All At Once*, Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Richmond, VA (group)
- 2023 *Energetic Maps*, TAP Gallery, Montreal, Canada (two-person)
- 2023 *Shed Your Eyes*, MARCH Gallery, New York, NY (solo)
- 2022 *Western Paintings*, D.D.D.D., New York, NY (solo)
- 2022 *Conscious, Subconscious, (Collective) Unconscious*, The Anderson Gallery, Richmond, VA (group)
- 2022 *Thank Goodness it's Face to Face*, Gordon Galleries, Norfolk, VA (group)
- 2021 *Cardinal Club*, The Anderson Gallery, Richmond, VA (group)

- 2021 *The Language of the Birds*, Tuesday Gallery, Richmond, VA (group)
2021 *good faith*, The Anderson Gallery, Richmond, VA (solo)
2020 *Now more than ever*, Summer Exhibition, Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY 2020 (group)
2019 *Fata Morgana*, Candidacy Exhibition Richmond, VA (group)
2018 *Parallel Play*, FAB Gallery, Richmond, VA (group)
2014 *Make. Believe.*, MOCA Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL (solo)
2013 *Fermentation*, CoRK Arts District, Jacksonville, FL (solo)
2010 *Men-stration*, Shapiro's Gallery, Baltimore, MD (group)
2009 *Small Works Auction*, Light Gallery, Baltimore, MD (group)
2009 *Hyphen*, Rosenberg Gallery, Baltimore, MD (group)
2008 *Evocative, Nuggets, Psychic Triggers*, PS338 Gallery, Baltimore, MD (group)

Awards

AHL Foundation Visual Artist Award (2024)

MacDowell Fellow (2021)

Pamela Joy Johnson Bequest Fellowship (2021)

Graduate Teaching Fellow (VCU) - Full funding 2018-2020

Esther Elizabeth Motz Memorial Scholarship

Clarence B. and Nell G. Williams Scholarship

VCU Graduate Research Grant

VCU Graduate Travel Grant

VCU Anderson Publishing Grant

Wurtzel Residency

Barbara Ritzman Devereux Visiting Artist Grant

MICA Trustee Award

MICA Academic Excellence Scholarship

MICA Grant

MICA Talent Grant

MICA Dean's List

Presentations and Press

- 2025 Visiting Critic Lecture - Model American, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
- 2025 Visiting Artist Lecture, Kent University School of Art, Kent, OH
- 2024 Artforum Art Guide: D.D.D.D. Gallery Hallucination - MUST SEE, by Artforum Editors
- 2023 MICAtalks Artist Talk and Panel Discussion, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 Artforum Art Guide: MARCH Shed Your Eyes - MUST SEE, by Artforum Editors
- 2022 In Conversation: John Hee Taek Che, Courtney McClellan for Burnaway
- 2021 Panel Discussion for Art+Activism, The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 2020 MFA Thesis Exhibition, Art and Education
- Artist Talks and Panels