

A MAN ON A SEARCH FOR SHAPES

A REPORTAGE ABOUT JUNGGEUN OH, A KOREAN ARTIST IN BERLIN

BY HYEWON SHIN

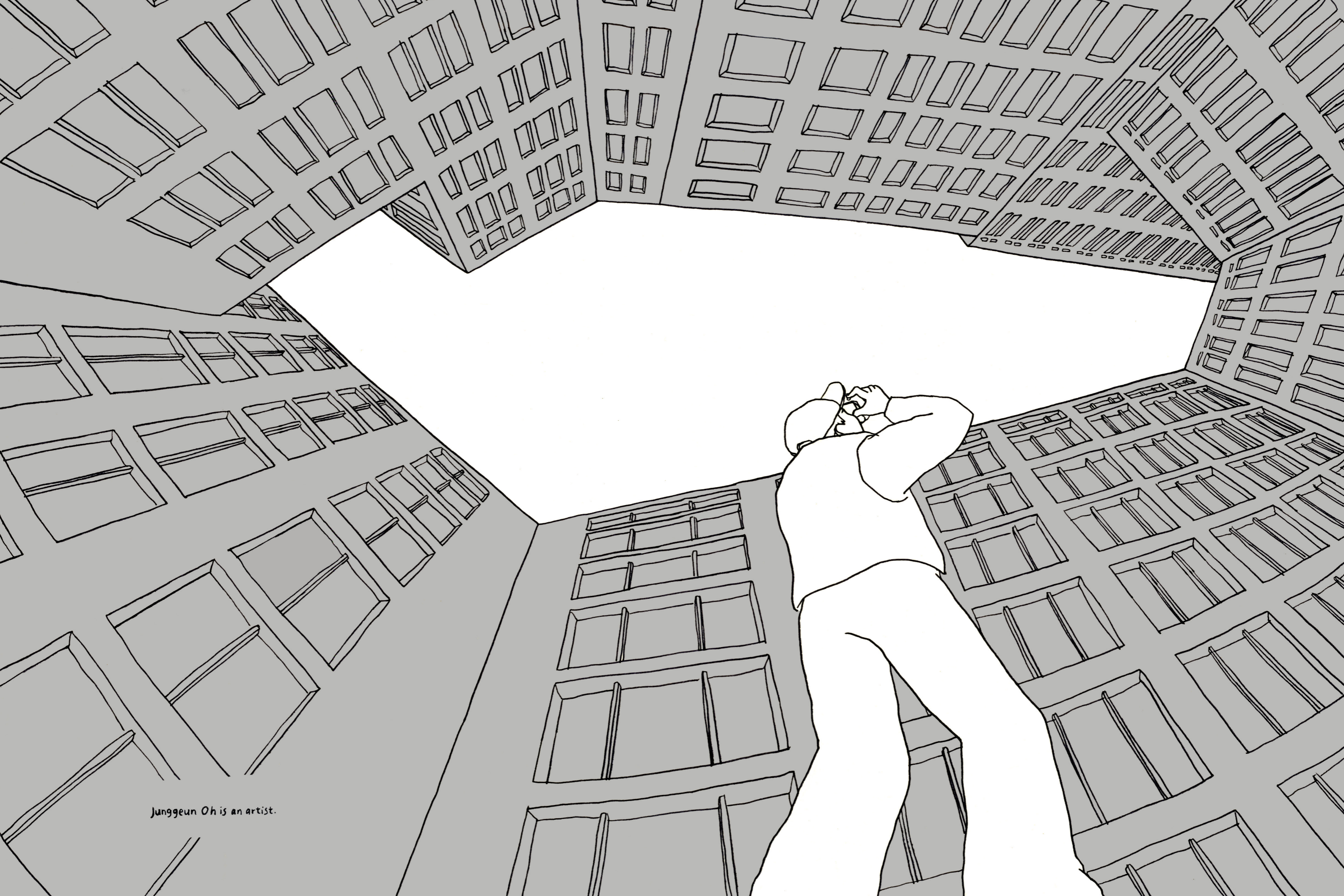


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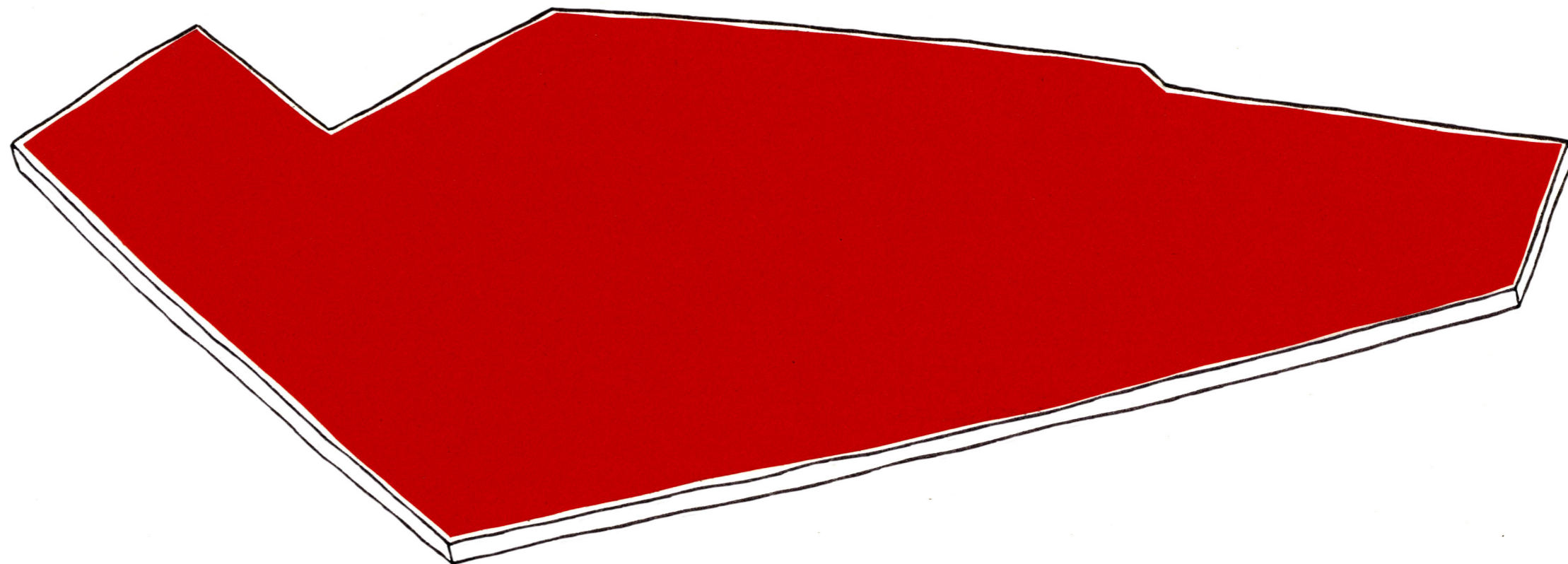


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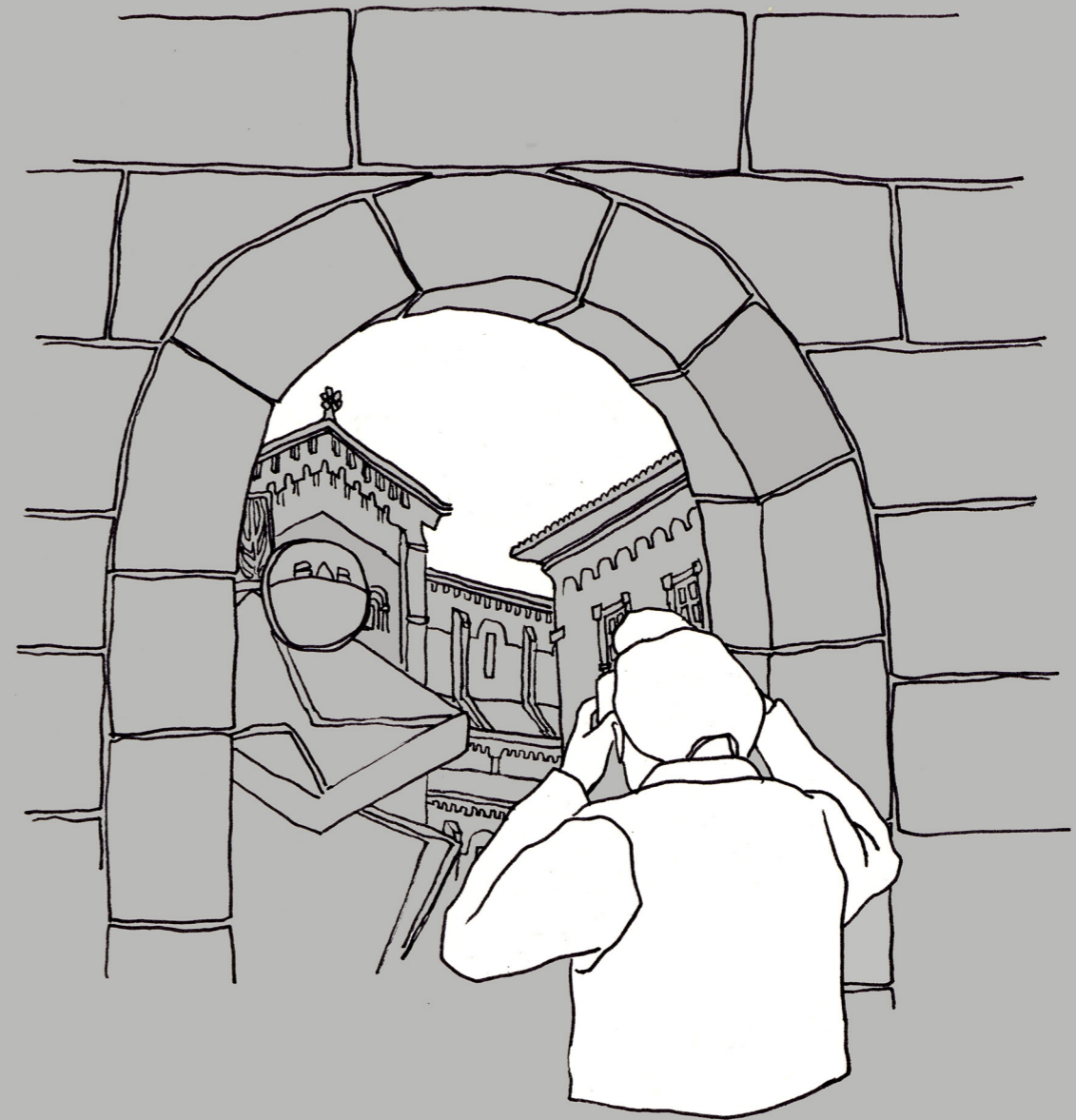
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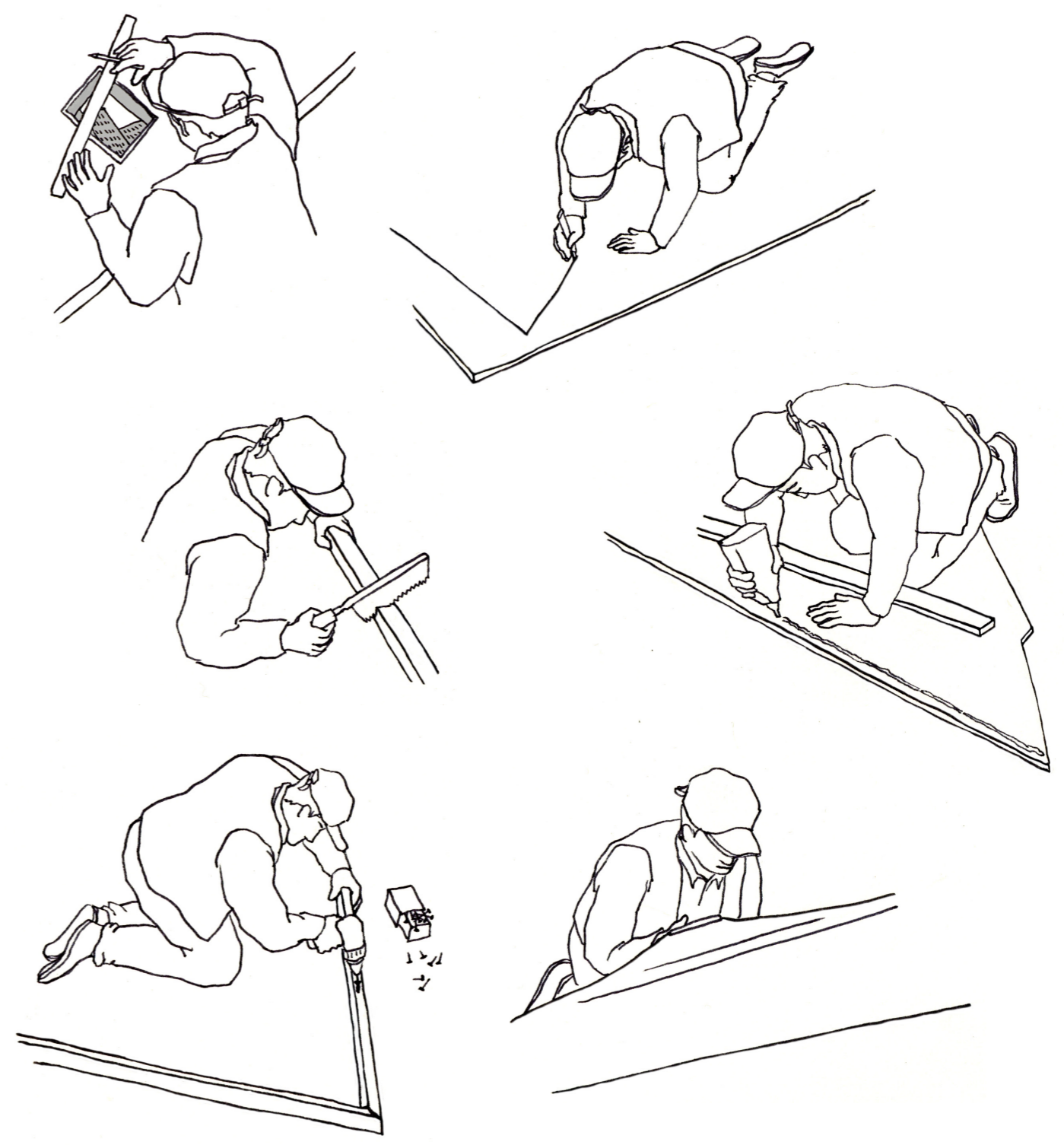
Jungeun Oh is an artist.



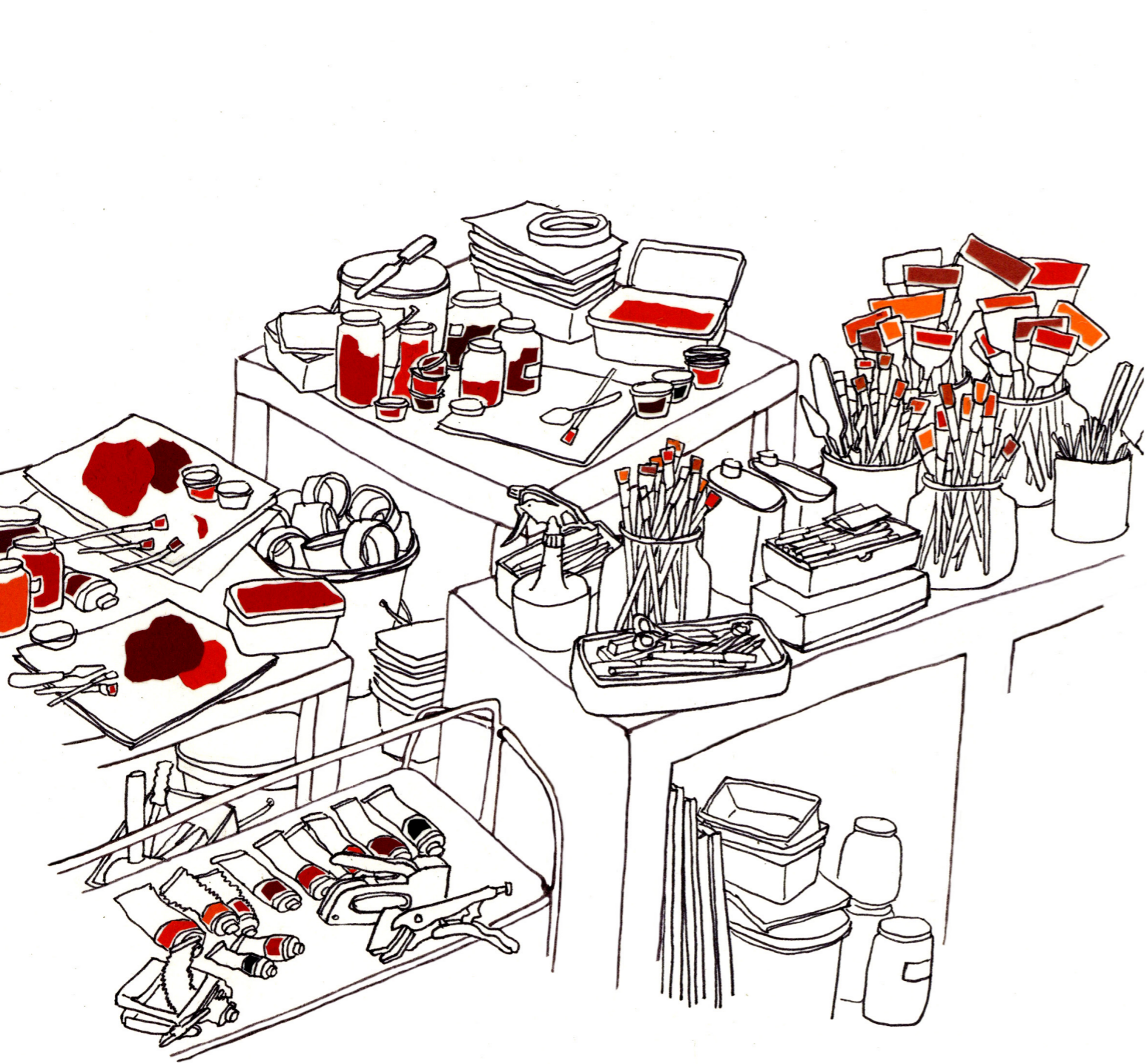
Jungeun says, "Many objects have a shape. The sky doesn't have a shape because it's too big. But by coming together with other objects, the sky can also have a shape of its own."



Junggeun wanders the city in search of shapes for his artwork, which he captures with his camera. He says, "I like to go for walks. During my walks through the city, I pay careful attention to what I see, especially architecture, streets, buildings and courtyards. When you look up to the overcast sky, the contours of buildings create very special and different spaces. The empty spaces between the buildings reveal a whole world of shapes. When you walk, your angle of vision changes constantly and so do the shapes of these spaces."

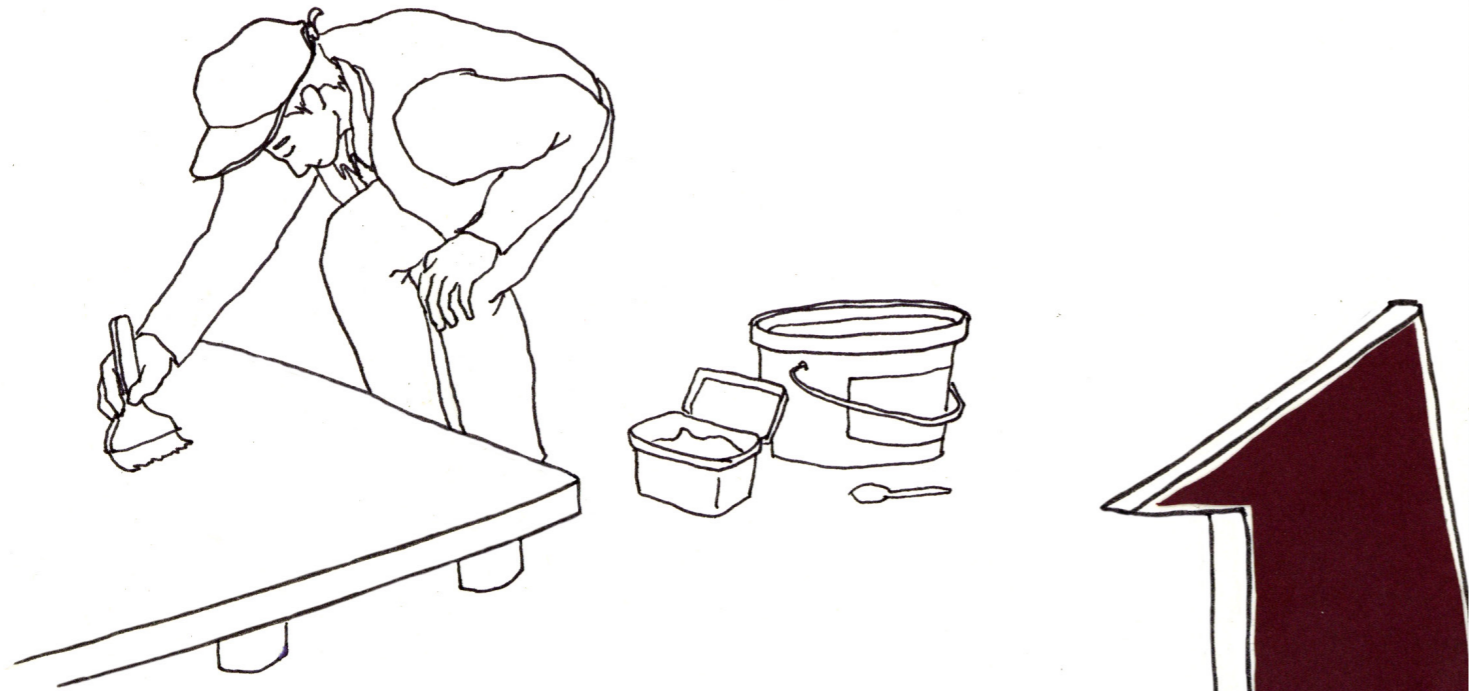


Jungeun studied painting at the Seoul National University in Korea, has taken part in many exhibitions, won a number of important awards, and also has teaching experience. In 2005 he decided to come to Berlin, as he felt it offered more possibilities for him to develop as an artist. He has been working together with a gallery for a few years now. There, he has had solo exhibitions and group exhibitions and has organized projects with other artists.

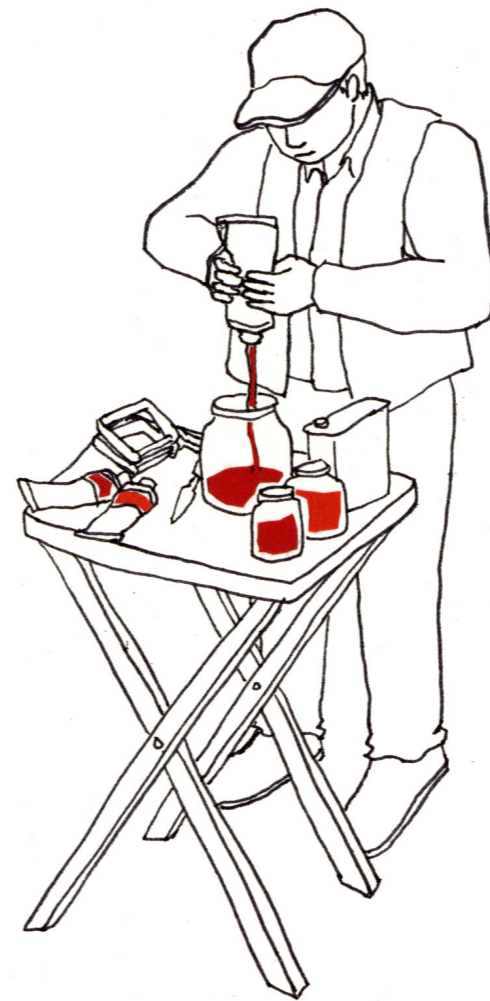


The color that Jungeun uses most often is red. He says, "I like to use different shades of red because it has a high color quality and purity and saturation levels. When I mix red, it doesn't lose its color quality as easily as other colors."

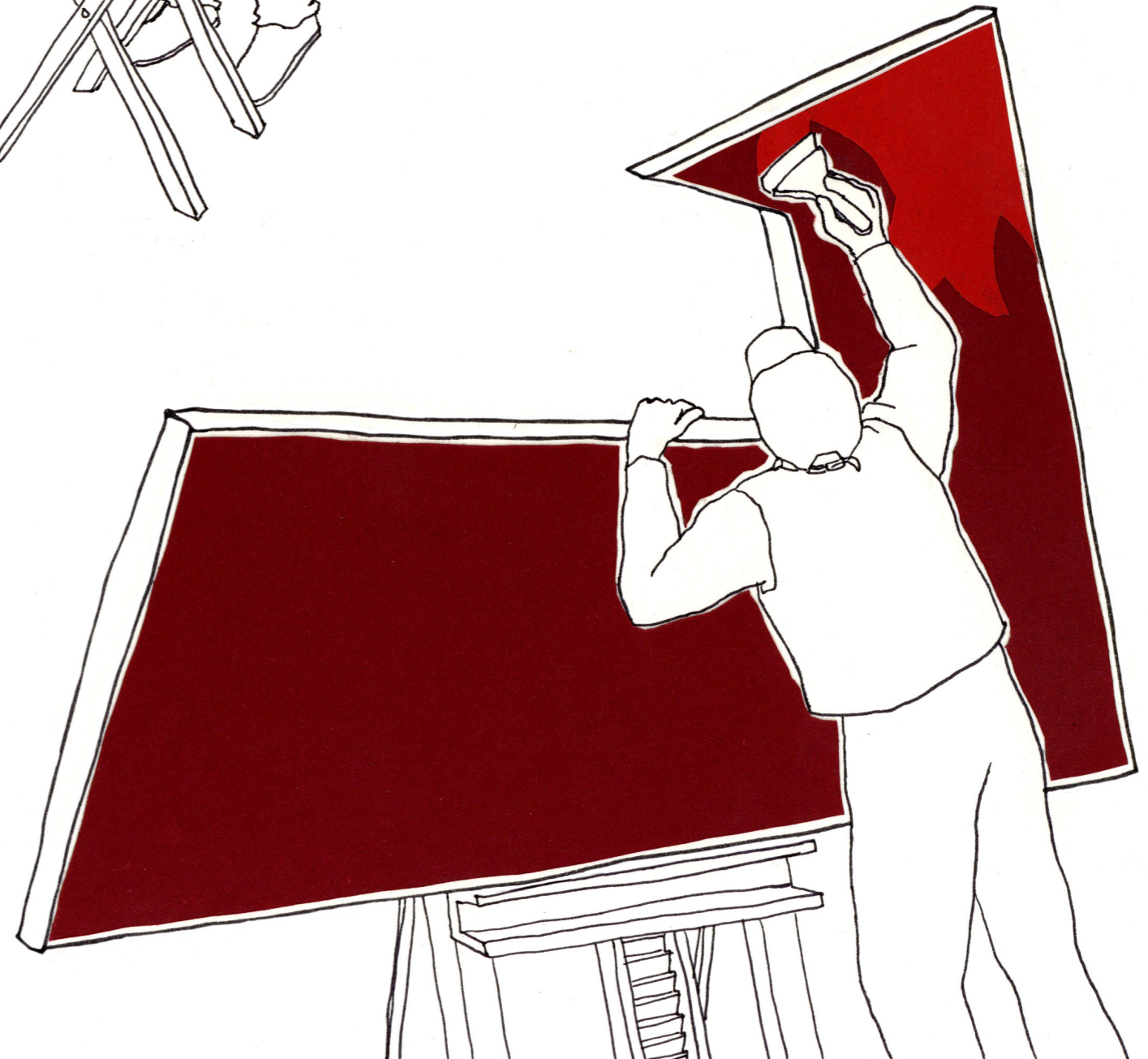




Jungeun paints the color so evenly on the canvas that there is not a single brushstroke to be seen.

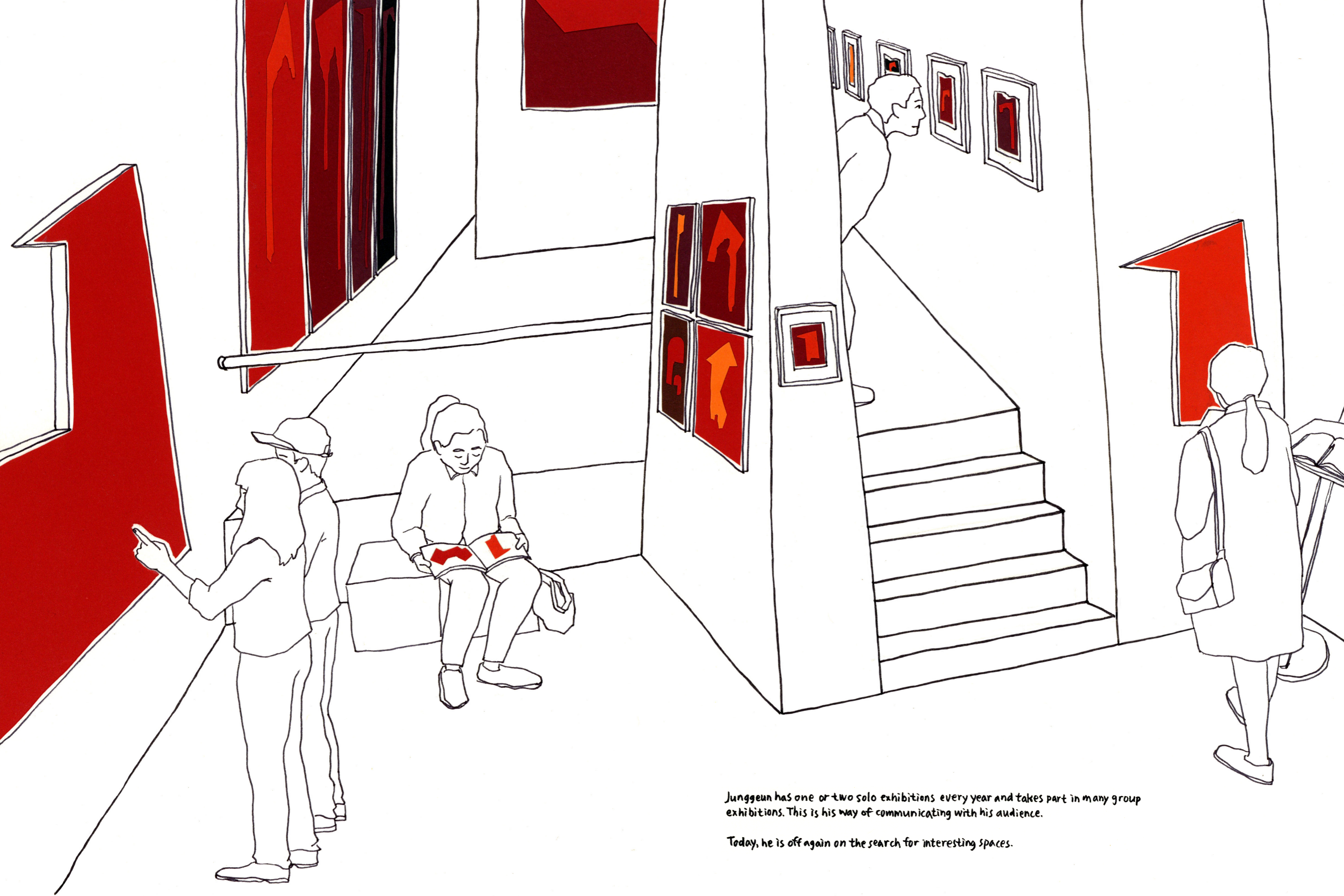


Painting over, and over, and over again... he normally paints at least seven coats. It takes about two weeks until the paint dries. And three to four months until the painting is finished.



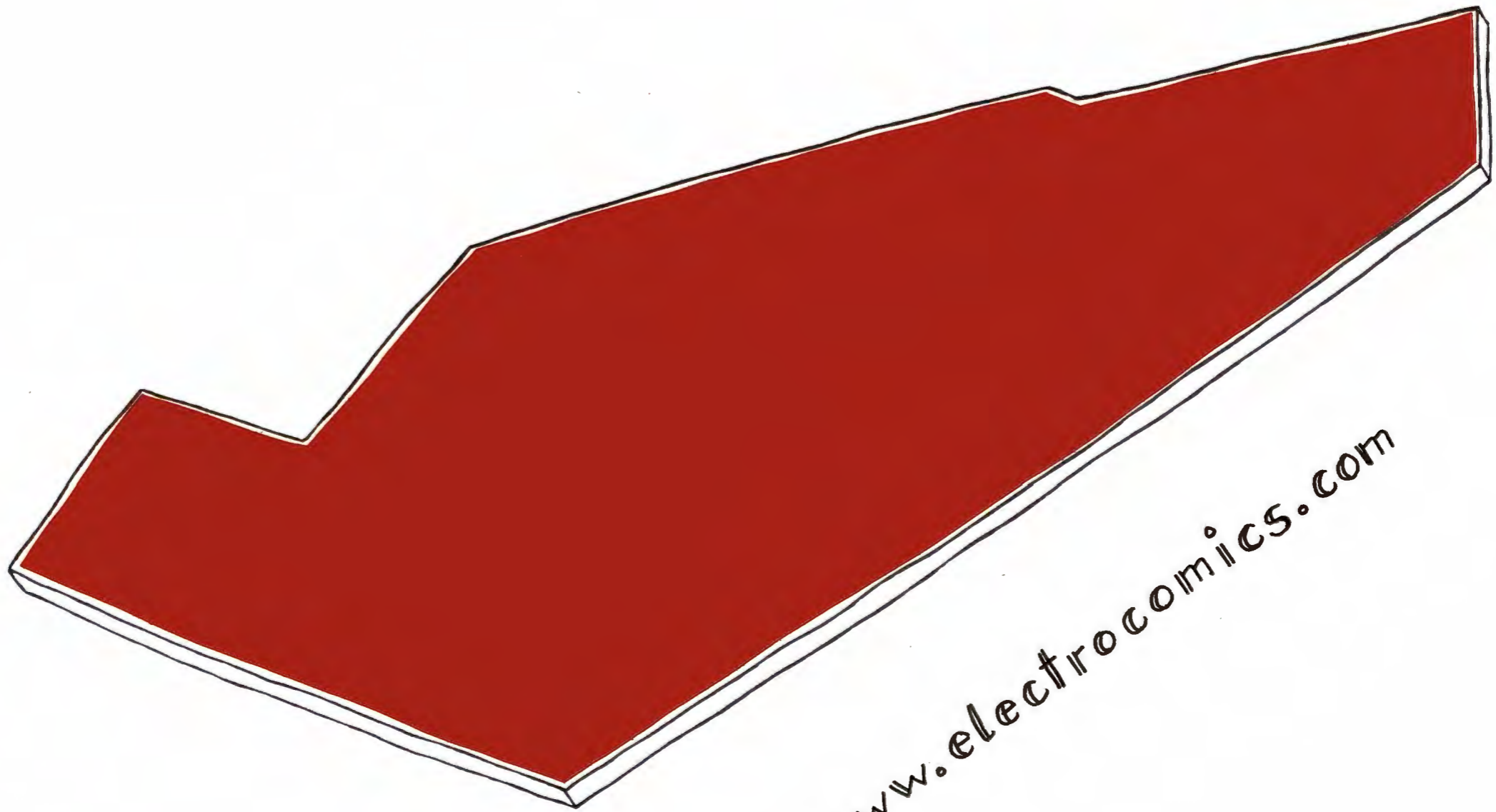


Except on weekends, Junggeun is at his atelier everyday. There are days when he paints and doesn't paint. When he is not painting, he looks at the paintings hung in the atelier next door, goes through his photos, and sorts through the shapes that he has collected. If he feels like taking a break, he goes for a walk in the neighborhood, goes to exhibitions, museums, or galleries and looks at works of other artists. He also enjoys poking about in bookstores in search for interesting art books and texts.

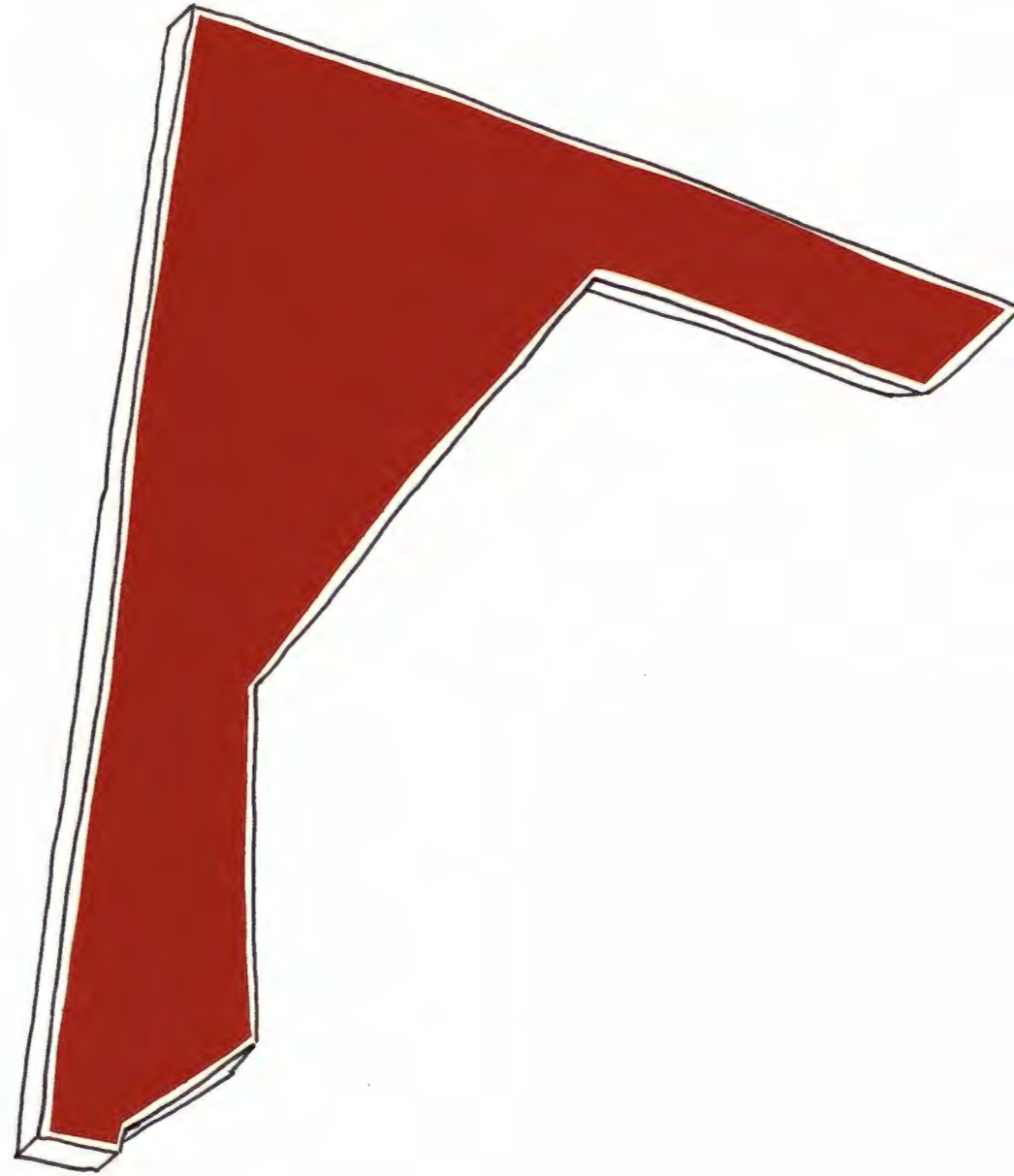


Jungeun has one or two solo exhibitions every year and takes part in many group exhibitions. This is his way of communicating with his audience.

Today, he is off again on the search for interesting spaces.



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