

Cheon Kyung-ja was a South Korean artist,

Born in 1924, Kyung-ja lived in Jeolla province and moved to Tokyo in 1940 to study art. Her works' main themes are sorrow and grief. Cheon Kyung-ja first gained public recognition during the Korean war in 1952. She made a piece called "Ecology", depicting 35 snakes tangled up together. Cheon Kyung-ja was at the time living through immense grief and despair, as she lost her baby sister. She painted this piece in order to cope with the sorrows from her life. The piece was considered sensational, and she has been a well recognized and loved painter in the South Korean art scene ever since.

" There must be irresistible resentment in every corner of my body.  
No matter how hard I struggle, my sad legend will not be erased "

"To survive the tragedies that happened in my personal life—the hunger and the war—I had to paint those abominable creatures. That was my scream to confirm my will to live."

