

## Han Sungpil

*Frozen Fire 08, 2023, digital photograph*

*Frozen Fire 16, 2023, digital photograph*

### Artist statement

The consequences of global warming have been creeping upon us critically in the last decade. On August 30, 2017, after an intense lightning and thunderstorm, a wildfire broke out in Waterton Lakes National Park.

The wildfire burned roughly 20,000 hectares in the park which impacted approximately 38 per cent of the park. The aftermath of the wildfire was atrocious. Regrowth and recovery of such wildfires can take up to 40 years.

I visited the tragic site in the late spring of 2021 when the affected area was covered in Canadian snow. It was as if the humongous forest never existed. There was a sense of silence and stillness while nature was healing itself.

Viewing at a distance or through a display device may create an illusion of an oriental painting with its fine line seeming details and moderation of colors. However, in a large size of printed medium, the audience is able to visually experience the fine details of thousands of trees still standing with resilience, and some already fallen horizontally after the horrendous wildfire that is now camouflaged with Alberta snow ever so peacefully. I wanted to capture the almighty restoring force of nature at the affected site out to the audiences.

While this piece delivers awe of nature to the viewers through artistic expression of the event in 2017, the compelling message that it also carries is the impact of environmental devastation which awakens advocacy for environmental protection for the public.