

This isn't black and neither is it a hole.

It's a circular mirror with green paint covering the surface.

So no light gets in.

Or out.

A mirror that reflects only darkness.

A black hole after all.

In astronomy, a black hole is a region of spacetime exhibiting such strong gravitational effects that nothing—not even light—can escape from inside it.

Being depressed is like falling into a black hole. Nothing gets in, nothing gets out.

A mirror is the opposite of that: light bounces off of it.

The mirror is a recurring symbol in Zen. Chuang-tzu wrote,

“The mind of a perfect man is like a mirror.

It grasps nothing. It expects nothing.

It reflects but does not hold.”

On the other hand...

Yes?

Many things germinate in darkness. Seeds for example.

From which life arises.

And feelings, the seeds of thought.

Green is the color of life. Grass is green.

Should we say something about the circle?

Yes. In Zen, the circle is an important symbol. A circle painted in one stroke of a brush by a Zen master is called an *enso*.

What does it symbolize?

Wholeness; enlightened mind; life and death; the universe and the void; time and eternity; reality and abstraction; and so forth. Now I recollect a Zen story:

An old man on the beach drew a perfect circle in the sand with a stick. A little boy nearby piped up, "Hey, old man, how could you draw a such a perfect circle?" The old man replied, "I tried over and over." He handed the stick to the boy and said, "Here, you try," and he walked away. The boy tried to draw a circle but it wasn't perfect. He tried again and again and again, and although his circles improved there was always something off. Finally, one day he drew a perfect circle, and then he heard the voice of a little boy: "Hey, old man, how could you draw such a perfect circle?"

I like that story. It's circular.



**Ah-Bin Shim, "Black Hole" (2018) acrylic on mirror, steel bracket, 25 X 25 cm**