

Four Winds

SON Bong-Chae

HAN Kyung-Won

LEE Jae-Hyo

YOON Sang-Yuel

OPERA GALLERY



Preface

Over the past sixty years South Korea has asserted itself as one of the most innovative and pioneering contemporary cultures in the world, coupling a passionate pursuit of modernization with growing nostalgia for the organic left behind in its wake. Accented with a desire for control and intentionality, contemporary Korean art has erupted to reveal a sophisticated, highly imaginative and instantly discernable creative pulse.

The last decade in particular has seen an exponential rise in South Korean artists whose work examines the historical, technological and cultural tapestry of their roots while pondering on the state of an individual and collective future. Sometimes dystopian, often assiduous and ever thought-provoking, South Korean art has become a crucial instrument in understanding this mysterious culture.

Four Winds celebrates the works of four contemporary South Korean artists who together personify a connection between tradition and modernity, manufactured and organic, erratic and arranged.

Gilles Dyan
Founder & Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

Didier Viltart
Director
Opera Gallery Monaco

SON Bong-Chae

B. 1967

The illusionary works of Son Bong-Chae are composed of multiple layers of oil paint onto polycarbonate glass. On each of the five layers of polycarbonate Son Bong-Chae paints his ethereal pine tree, generating a layered reproduction emphasized by the empty space in between. Illuminated by a luminous diode and set against a stark background, Son Bong-Chae's paintings evoke the intuitive beauty of nature while conveying a sense of nostalgia and loneliness.

Son Bong-Chae received his MFA from the prestigious Pratt Institute in New York. He has participated in numerous solo exhibitions, biennials and international art fairs. His work appears in the collections of the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Korea, the Gwangju Biennial Foundation and the Korean Cultural Centre in Shanghai.

Migrants, 2013
Oil on polycarbonate, LED
124 x 84 cm - 48.8 x 33.1 in.





Migrants, 2013
Oil on polycarbonate, LED
84 x 124 cm - 33.1 x 48.8 in.



Migrants, 2013
Oil on polycarbonate, LED
122 x 162 cm - 48 x 63.8 in.

Migrants, 2013
Oil on polycarbonate, LED
84 x 124 cm - 33 x 48.8 in.





Migrants, 2012
Oil on polycarbonate, LED
94 x 184 cm - 37 x 72.4 in.



Migrants, 2012
Oil on polycarbonate, LED
94 x 184 cm - 37 x 72.4 in.

HAN Kyung-Won

B. 1985

Han Kyung-Won's burnt wood paintings are an expression of the evolution of tradition and the 'tao' inherent in classic works of ink on paper. By burning a toothpick onto a wooden block, Han Kyung-Won's works inspire the ceaseless fluidity and circulatory nature of existence. While ink painting was used as an expression of impermanence, Han Kyung-Won's burnt wood on wood reflects a process of creation and extinction that marks the cosmological tone of our planet.

Han Kyung-Won graduated with BFA and MFA in Oriental Painting from Hongik University. He has exhibited in solo shows throughout Korea and has participated in numerous international art fairs. Four Winds is his first gallery exhibition outside of Korea.

Ash 43, 2013

Burnt toothpicks on wood
80 x 120 cm - 31.5 x 47.2 in.





Ash 56, 2015
Burnt toothpicks on wood
80 x 120 cm - 31.5 x 47.2 in.

LEE Jae-Hyo

B. 1965

Lee Jae-Hyo's choice of material articulates his division with nature and landscape. Creating manipulated harmony out of calcified wood, or arranging nails into silvery patters and cosmic shapes, speaks to a formal sculptural language that both cooperates with and imposes on the natural world.

Over the past two decades Lee Jae-Hyo has exhibited in over one hundred group and solo exhibitions worldwide. He is the recipient of numerous sculptural awards, including the 2008 Prize of Excellence in Olympic Landscape Sculpture, and is included in the permanent collections of the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Korea; Gyeongghi Museum of Modern Art; Cornell University Herbert F. Johnson Museum, USA; among many other prestigious private collections.

0121-1110=114051, 2014
Stainless steel bolts, nails and wood
162 x 108 x 32 cm - 63.8 x 42.5 x 12.6 in.





0121-1110=1141019, 2014
Juniper wood
100 x 100 x 45 cm - 39.4 x 39.4 x 17.2 in.



0121-1110=115016, 2014
Juniper wood
94 x 81 x 67 cm - 37 x 31.9 x 26.4 in.

YOON Sang-Yuel

B. 1970

Yoon Sang-Yuel's painstakingly rendered works, created from hundreds of pencil lines on paper, represent an acute awareness and utilization of the effects of space, light and shadow. Inspired by the external suppression and ambiguity of fear, Yoon Sang-Yuel seeks a symbiotic connection between the controllable and uncontrollable ambivalence in everyday life.

Yoon Sang-Yuel graduated from the Kyungwon University Department of Painting. He partook in the Cité Internationale des Arts residency program in Paris and numerous solo exhibitions in Seoul. His work has been shown in group exhibitions worldwide.

Silence, 2015

Drawing on paper, Mixed media
72 x 52 cm - 28.3 x 20.5 in.





Silence, 2015
Drawing on paper, Mixed media
132 x 92 cm - 52 x 36.2 in.



Silence, 2015
Drawing on paper, Mixed media
132 x 92 cm - 52 x 36.2 in.



Silence, 2013
Drawing on paper, Mixed media
110 x 80 cm - 43.3 x 31.5 in.



Silence, 2013
Drawing on paper, Mixed media
110 x 80 cm - 43.3 x 31.5 in.

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