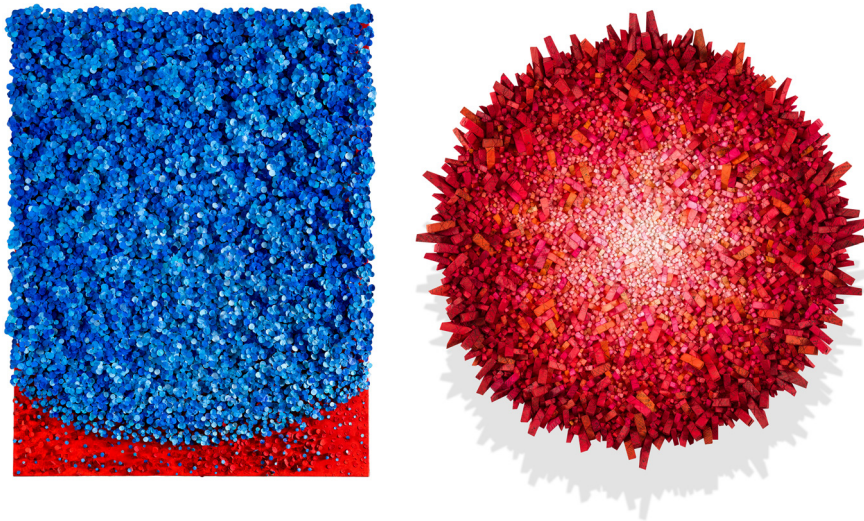


OPERA GALLERY



Cho Sung Hee, *Blue Cluster*, 2018, Collage, Korean rice paper (Hanji) with oil on canvas
145 x 112 cm | 57.1 x 44.1 in; Chun Kwang Young, *Aggregation17-AU041 (Star 15)*, 2017,
mixed media with Korean mulberry paper, 160 x 160 cm | 63 x 63 in

SINGAPORE

Material and Form: Contemporary Art in South Korea

25 APRIL - 11 MAY, 2025

February, 2025, Singapore—Opera Gallery is pleased to present 'Material and Form: Contemporary Art in South Korea' at their Singapore location from 25 April-11 May. Featuring work by **Cho Sung Hee, Chun Kwang Young, Lee Jung Ho, Jae Ko, Lee Gil Rae, Seo Young Deok** and **Lee Gi Seong**. Reflecting a diverse range subject matter and thematic explorations including nature & organic forms, the process of transformation, and the human condition, the artworks featured in this exhibition range broadly from traditional Korean hanji paper to welded iron chains to found objects. Presented together as a whole, however, the collective narrative of these artworks reflects a nuanced picture of the artistic traditions and heritage of the artist's shared Korean heritage—one that they both embrace, as well as redefine.

Jae Ko's practice, rooted in sustainability, references a visual dialogue between architectural objects and topographical landscapes. Her intricately assembled sculptural works constructed with recycled paper and often pigmented with Sumi ink, making visual reference to natural elements and metaphysical reference to the complexity of emotion. **Cho Sung Hee's** mixed media works are assembled through a labour-intensive collaging process which involves delicate Hanji paper layers placed atop one another and layered with oil pigments to evoking tonal shifts in light and colour between the seasons and evoking memories of her childhood garden.

Exploring the relationship between humans and their environment, **Seo Young Deok's** hyper-realistic, life-size sculptures of human figures rendered using welded iron chains sourced from industrial machinery and bicycles conceptually uses these industrial materials to reflect the complexity of existentialist concerns within the modern world. **Chun Kwang Young** incorporates elements of both painting and sculpture in his practice. Evoking organic, geological matter, his

OPERA GALLERY



Lee Gil Rae, *Old Pine Tree* 2019-6, 2019,
copper welding, 225 x 89 x 72 cm |
88.6 x 35 x 28.3 in

Aggregation series is characterised by wall-hung amalgamations of small, triangular forms wrapped in Hanji paper often tinted with teas and pigment.

Lee Gil Rae's intricate, organic, tree-form sculptures constructed with steel and copper reflect his ongoing use of nature and the tree as a source of inspiration. Through these works, the artist makes a broader concerns such as deforestation and the depletion of natural resources. **Lee Jung Ho's** mixed media works are frequently inspired by the scientific law of entropy which, within the natural world, dictates that all systems tend towards increasing disorder and randomness. Through his varied use of raw materials and found objects such as birch wood, broken stop signs, and car accident debris, his work explores this complex dynamic between industrialism and nature.

Lee Gi Seong, who frequently uses an oxidation process that mimics natural weathering and decay, creates his mixed media works through a meticulous layering technique. The resulting warm, neutral tones in his work reflect organic materials and natural landscapes.

Grouped together, the artworks in 'Material and Form: Contemporary Art in South Korea' tell a larger story about the balance between modernity and tradition in Korea. Blurring the limits between sculpture and painting, this exhibition presents a glimpse into the enduring influence of traditional Korean processes through a contemporary lens.

About Opera Gallery

Founded in Singapore in 1994, Opera Gallery has forged a network of 15 galleries worldwide including London, Paris, New York, Geneva, Hong Kong, and Seoul, establishing itself as one of the leading forces within the international art market.

Headed by Gilles Dyan, Opera Gallery specialises in modern, post-war, and contemporary art. In addition, the gallery represents international emerging artists such as Andy Denzler, Anthony James and Gustavo Nazareno, and more established contemporary artists such as Ron Arad, Manolo Valdés, and Anselm Reyle.

For more than 30 years, Opera Gallery's mission has been to showcase the dynamic, innovative, and diverse expressions of modern and contemporary art through its ambitious yearly exhibition programming as well as to bring together institutions that shape the cultural landscape, often supporting private collections and leading public institutions.

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