

KUKJE GALLERY

Seoul, South Korea

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The Collateral Event of the 56th International Art Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia *Dansaekhwa*

08 May 2015 - 15 Aug 2015

Location: Palazzo Contarini-Polignac (874 Dorsoduro, 30123 Venezia), Accademia (Vaporetto n.1 and n.2)

Collateral Event of the 56th International Art Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia.

We are very pleased to present *Dansaekhwa*, as part of the official Collateral Events of the 56th International Art Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia. Curated by Yongwoo Lee and organized by Boghossian Foundation together with Kukje Gallery, Seoul and Tina Kim Gallery, New York, *Dansaekhwa* is a landmark exhibition. *Dansaekhwa* is a comprehensive introduction to one of the late 20th century's most compelling art movements, and while its artists each have a unique philosophy many overlapping concerns unite their work. These include a strong aesthetic ideal focused on the unity between artist and nature as well as a very refined approach to mark making. This emphasis on native cultural idioms was politicized during the 20th century when post-war Korean identity was in a state of radical flux. It is in these tumultuous times that *Dansaekhwa* evolved and helped shape modern Korean art history. While specifically rooted in a Korean context, *Dansaekhwa* must be seen as having important formal and conceptual links to parallel movements in Japan and the West including Gutai, Mono-ha and Abstract Expressionism.

The exhibition will showcase the works of key masters who defined *Dansaekhwa*'s development in the 1970s, providing an essential conceptual framework to appreciate this important movement. A subject of renewed interest in both Korea and internationally, this is a timely exhibition that explores a group of artists whose exquisitely beautiful and politically engaged work continues to have a profound influence on contemporary art. The participating artists are Chung Chang-Sup, Chung Sang-Hwa, Ha Chong-Hyun, KIM Whanki, Kwon Young-Woo, Lee Ufan and Park Seo-Bo.

Yongwoo Lee has organized the exhibition to trace the development of *Dansaekhwa*. While a seminal historical movement that has had lasting influence, *Dansaekhwa* continues to be a vital framework with many of its founding artists continuing to make work. As such the curator has chosen to focus on its development over five decades, from the 1960s to today. By including works completed in different periods, the curator will emphasize how the social milieu within Korea had an impact on the development and public reception of *Dansaekhwa*.

In order to set the stage for many of the predominant themes that came to be associated with *Dansaekhwa*, including its emphasis on monochromatic compositions and innovative use of materials, Yongwoo Lee has included a major group of works from the 1960s by the artist KIM Whanki. This is an historic opportunity to see Whanki's role as a foundational member in the post-war Korean art scene whose work and ideas contributed to the advance of *Dansaekhwa*.

The exhibition will occupy all three floors of Palazzo Contarini-Polignac, the iconic 15th century Renaissance palace located on the Grand Canal. Yongwoo Lee has chosen to use the multi-storied building to organize the exhibition, employing each floor to frame a time period or specific artist. With this in mind the ground floor will be devoted to new, commissioned work by Lee Ufan.

Historical works by the seven participating artists from the early years of *Dansaekhwa* will be shown. The installation will feature early 70's work to recent paintings by each the artists evolving ideas and ongoing tensions of contemporary *Dansaekhwa*. In addition, an important academic conference focused on *Dansaekhwa* was held in January, 2015 and a recording of this event will be shown to engage the public and give necessary historical insight into its beginnings, as well as to frame some of the ongoing debates regarding its influence. Coupled with a range of related archival materials, scholarship and ephemera, the exhibition will be the first rigorous academic presentation of *Dansaekhwa* to be held outside of Korea and will be a landmark moment in its introduction to the international community.

A comprehensive catalog will be published to accompany this historic exhibition, featuring essays by leading scholars including Melissa Chiu, Director at the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.; Doryun Chong, Chief Curator at M+ Museum in Hong Kong; Eungie Joo, Independent Curator / Curator of Sharjah Biennial 12; Joan Kee, Associate Professor at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Yongwoo Lee, President of the International Biennial Association; Jeremy Lewison, former Director of Collections at Tate; and Alexandra Munroe, Samsung Senior Curator at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Yongwoo Lee is currently the executive director of Shanghai Himalayas Museum and the president of IBA (International Biennial Association). He was the founding director of the Gwangju Biennale in 1995 and served as the president and general director of the Gwangju Biennale Foundation from 2008 to 2014. Over the last thirty years he has worked to present the aesthetics of difference on an international stage, curating and reexamining exhibitions related to the discourse of visual culture as social practice. His curated exhibitions include *Electronic Maple* (New York Center for Media Art), *Whitney Biennial Seoul* (National Museum of Contemporary Art Korea), *Flowers of May* (Gwangju Museum of Art), *Nam June Paik Retrospective* (National Museum of Contemporary Art), and *Dansaekhwa* (Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Venice) amongst many others. Yongwoo Lee was a professor of aesthetics and critical theory at Korea University and has lectured at several universities across the United States and Europe. He holds a Ph.D in art history from Oxford University. He has published numerous books including *Information and Reality*, *Nam June Paik* and *The Origins of Video Art*.

Boghossian Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Brussels, Belgium, founded in 1992 by Robert Boghossian and his two sons Jean and Albert. In 2006 the Foundation acquired the Villa Empain and converted it into a center of art and dialogue focused on bridging the cultures of the East and the West. The Villa Empain opened its doors to the public in 2010 and has since hosted celebrated exhibitions, conferences, international meetings and other activities devoted to this mission. The Foundation also finances social, educational, artistic and environmental projects.

Press release courtesy Kukje Gallery.

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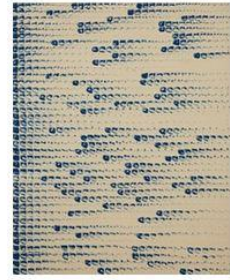
KIM WHANKI
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HA CHONG HYUN
Conjunction



PARK SEOBO
Ecriture No. 89-79-82-83



LEE UFAN
From Point



KWON YOUNG-WOO
Untitled



CHUNG SANG-HWA
Untitled 73-7



CHUNG CHANG-SUP
Wandering

URL: <http://ocula.com/art-exhibitions/kukje-gallery/dansaekhwa/>