

Susan Eley

Fine Art

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Korean Art Now
A Group Show of Contemporary Art

Soonae Tark, Seongmin Ahn, Kyunglim Lee, Kibeom Kwon
Soyeon Cho, Eunha Kim, Jongwang Lee

February 26 – March 26, 2015

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, February 26, 6-8 pm

Art-Making Workshop
Thursday, March 12, 6:30-8 pm

Art educator HK (Hyun Kyung) Kim will teach a traditional Korean art form using *Hanji*,
in which Mulberry papers, in brilliant colors, are applied to canvas.

Please RSVP to susie@susaneleyfineart.com, as space is limited.

We are pleased to announce the opening of “Korean Art Now,” an exhibition of seven contemporary artists from Korea, opening on February 26 and remaining on view through March 26. The exhibition has been co-curated by Susan Eley and Hannah Song. Song is director of the New York gallery ARTFLOW, dedicated to introducing and promoting Asian contemporary art from Korea, China, and Japan to a US art market.

“Korean Art Now” will feature work by Soonae Tark, Seongmin Ahn, Kyunglim Lee, Kibeom Kwon, Soyeon Cho, Eunha Kim and Jongwang Lee. Jongwang Lee, a long-time artist with SEFA, has exhibited in several solo and group exhibitions with the gallery. The other six artists will be exhibiting with SEFA for the first time.

Paintings by Toronto based artist Eunha Kim will be featured in a solo show in the north gallery; the other six artists will be featured in a group exhibition in the larger south gallery.

We are delighted to announce partnerships with the following sponsors: Fides, who will supply the *Hanji* paper for the Workshop on March 12; Food by Sung LLC, with Chef Sung K. Kim offering Korean cuisine for the reception; and the Korean Cultural Service, the cultural arm of the Korean Consulate in New York.

Art-Making Workshop
Thursday, March 12, 6:30-8 pm

Art educator HK (Hyun Kyung) Kim will teach a traditional Korean art form using *Hanji*, in which Mulberry papers, in brilliant colors, are applied to canvas. Kim, who has a BFA in textiles, RISD, and is pursuing an MA in Art Education, NYU, has taught in the Alzheimer's project at MoMA, the Korean Cultural Service programs in New York, and assisted in teaching for the New New Yorkers Program at Queens Museum. *Please RSVP to susie@susaneleyfineart.com, as space is limited.*

THE ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

SEONGMIN AHN

Seongmin Ahn draws inspiration for her pencil drawings of flowers and other objects from *Minhwa*, Korean folk painting from the 18th and 19th centuries. Her ambition as an artist is to re-create *Minhwa* in a contemporary setting, marrying it with the aesthetic of Pop Art. Her popular images--candy, flowers and of late, artist flat files--suggest mass production and repetition, rendered with a highly traditional and complex technique.

BIO

Seongmin Ahn graduated from Seoul National University and Maryland Institute College of Art. Ahn takes traditional Asian painting as a starting point, and through an interpretive bridging of traditional and modern, and East and West, transforms it into something new. She has received a grant from Pollock Krasner Foundation and First Prize from AHL Foundation. Ahn has been reviewed by *The Washington Post*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *NY Arts magazine*, *The Baltimore Sun* and *Plain Dealer*. She has exhibited nationally and internationally at such institutions as the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Queens College Art Center and Hello Museum.

SOYEON CHO

In celebration of the exhibition "Korean Art Now" Soyeon Cho is installing a work

comprised of a bird cage and glass material in blue, which will hang from the ceiling in the central gallery. Cho uses everyday materials for her creations, such as glass segments, cotton swabs, furniture parts and plastic forks, commenting on the hidden beauty within objects we might toss as trash. The artist's choice of materials--the debris from our lives--parallels her fundamental belief that every thing and everyone has a capacity for beauty and that we are more than the value assigned to us by society. Ultimately, she expresses the power of the human mind to re-imagine and re-create its world; she refers to each re-imagined life as a "utopian landscape."

BIO

Korean born Soyeon Cho lives and works in New York and Toronto. She has two MFA degrees, one from Seoul National University Korea and one from School of Visual Arts, NY. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally. Her most recent museum shows are *The Basic Utensils* (MASS MoCA at kidspace, North Adams USA 2011); *Second Lives* (Museum of Arts and Design, NY 2008-2009), *Artists in New York* (Seoul Arts Center, Korea, 2007) and *Altre Lilith* (Le Vestali dell'Arte, Frascati, Italy, 2006). Cho exhibited a piece for *Glasstress*, (53rd Venice Biennale, Venice, 2009). Her most recent solo shows include *The Soul Garden* (Gallery b'ONE, Seoul 2012); *SKL Gallery* (Spain, 2009), *Ecological Collage 3* (Gallery HYUNDAI, Seoul, 2008), *Alice in Hsin-Chu* (Hsin-Chu International Glass Art, Taiwan, 2006) and *Wonderlandlust* (Galleria Michela Rizzo, Venice, 2005). Cho has also participated in residencies in New York, including Chashama Residency, Henry Street Settlement Artist in Residency Program and Project Studio Program at PS122.

EUNHA KIM

The sounds of *Nong-Ak*, made by traditional Korean musical instruments, and the expressive dance movements that accompany *Nong-Ak*, have inspired Eun-Ha Kim's recent series of paintings. She favors abstraction and characterizes her painting as Expressionistic Formalism. She believes that painting in an Abstract Expressionist style has allowed her to find a joyful expression and dynamic energy. Her drips recall the Action Painting of Jackson Pollock. "My brushstrokes fly to the rhythm of *Nong-Ak*," she says.

BIO

Eunha Kim has had exhibitions in Seoul, Houston, Toronto, London and New York. She received an HDFA from the Slade Art School at University College London and a BFA from the University of East London. Her paintings, in which she expresses syncopated rhythm and motion through use of colors and brush strokes, is inspired by Korean traditional folk dance. She is a member of the Toronto Artists Association and has been awarded the Grand Prix from the Korean Women's World Art Association. Kim resides in Toronto, Canada.

KIBEOM KWON

Kibeom Kwon's "Ambiguity" series are highly refined pencil and charcoal drawings on *Hanji*, or mulberry paper. At first glance, the drawings appear to be dense and rich abstractions, rendered with sensational detail. On closer inspection, they reveal a plethora of imagery that make up the overall composition. The human form morphs into plant like tendrils and flower imagery, almost as if the objects are in constant flux, evolving into some other nature-based forms. Ultimately, the artist comments on the human form as made up of numerous particles that constantly alter, a statement about humans existing as part of a larger whole.

BIO

Kibeom Kwon has shown his paintings and installations in exhibitions and galleries in Seoul, Korea, Xiamen, China and New York. He has a BFA, MFA and a DFA all from the College of Fine Arts of Seoul National University. His work has been collected by establishments such as Art Bank National Museum of Contemporary Arts; the Seoul Museum of Art, the YOUNGEUN Museum of Contemporary Art; Vis-a-Vis Art Lab in China and the Sheraton Hotel. Kwon resides in Seoul and is currently an Assistant Professor at the department of Oriental Painting at Sungshin Women's University in South Korea.

JONGWANG LEE

Jongwang Lee's impetus for his work comes from living in a highly materialistic and technological society, which he believes alienates us from our souls and inner worlds. Through his work, he seeks a balance between the spiritual and material worlds. He also aims to present an organic element in his paintings, a life that moves below the surface of things. To achieve this, he has experimented for many years with various materials and techniques. His recent work involves building a series of layers using liquid resins mixed with oil paint and rice paper, resulting in three dimensional, sculptural effects and organic forms. While Lee's recent work has a contemporary Pop Art sensibility, his influences are drawn from 5,000 years of Korean history, Buddhist philosophies and his experiences living in the US.

BIO

Jongwang Lee was born in Seoul, Korea in 1960 and currently lives and works in NYC. He has an MFA, National University of Tokyo Arts & Sciences, and a BFA, Art University of HongIk, Seoul, Korea. His work has been in group shows at the Sonoma Museum of Visual Art, CA, the Hammond Museum, NY and the Islip Art Museum, NY. His gallery exhibitions include Susan Eley Fine Art, the Japan American Art Association, New Century Artists Gallery and more. Lee is a tenured instructor of Sumi-e oil painting and drawing at the Nakano Art Center in Japan and currently teaches Sumi-e painting at the National Jewish Council Center in New York.

KYUNGLIM LEE

Kyunglim Lee paints with acrylic on cardboard, a technique that models Korean patchwork compositions called *Jo-gak-bo*. Having majored in oriental painting, the artist finds cardboard fascinating because it is both soft and hard, similar to pulp, and also carries color effectively, all characteristics of Korean traditional paper, *Hanji*. The artist paints bay side communities and urban scenes of Seoul and other cities, teeming with diverse populations. She makes these scenes from individualized shapes and forms, built up in patchwork style. Lee's narratives depict everyday life, a familiar town from her memory or an ideal community born in her imagination.

BIO

Kyunglim Lee creates artwork with corrugated cardboard, Korean traditional paper, *Hanji*, and Korean patchwork compositions, *Jo-gak-bo*. Her paintings are part 3d sculptures made with epoxy resin on paper. Her work has been showcased in Seoul, Germany, Singapore, Hong Kong, Miami, Seattle and Houston. She has participated in numerous art fairs, such as the Affordable Art Fair, Houston Fine Art Fair and the Hong Kong Art Fair. She has a BFA in Oriental Painting from the College of Fine Arts of Seoul National University. Lee resides in Incheon, South Korea, where she works as a full-time artist.

SOONAE TARK

Soonae Tark builds images systematically on a flat colored surface. She juxtaposes precise forms and colors of different weights to create a perfect, yet precarious balance. Her most recent medium of choice is Plexiglas, on which she paints the back. Using this medium with meticulous care, she plays with color and form with rigid lines.

BIO

Soonae Tark's reductive, colorful geometric paintings have been exhibited in many galleries, museums and public spaces. Among her awards are the Pollock Krasner Foundation, Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant, New York City's Percent for Art Commission, MTA Arts for Transit Commission, NYC. In 2014 her three-dimensional work "Fantasia" was included in The Fabergé Big Egg Hunt, NYC. Tark has a BFA, Dongduk Women's University, Seoul, Korea, and an MFA from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Lyons, France. She lives and works in New York City.

Chef Sung K Kim's bio

Personal chef Sung, born in Seoul and raised in the US, is a graduate of The French Culinary Institute. She has worked in some of the most acclaimed restaurant kitchens in New York, including Gilt, Maialino and Pure Food and Wine. She is the chef and owner of the supper club The Brooklyn Belly, and has appeared in an episode of *Chopped*.

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