

Johyun Gallery

Johyun Gallery to present *Origin, Emergence, Return*, an Exhibition of Three Leading Korean Artists Park Seo-Bo, Lee Bae, and Jin Meyerson at Rockefeller Center

On view from June 8 to July 26, 2023 at the Rink Level Gallery and featuring over 70 works, the exhibition will explore three generations of Korean art from the 20th century to the present.

Extending beyond the gallery space, the exhibition will also showcase Lee Bae's 21-foot site-specific sculpture of stacked charcoals at the iconic Channel Gardens of Rockefeller Center, marking the first time a Korean artist will present in the space.

The exhibition will open as a part of Rockefeller Center's celebration of Korean culture which will be held this July and will include Korean art, fashion, music, and gastronomy.



A rendering of Lee Bae's 'Issu du feu' at the Channel Gardens, Rockefeller Center, NYC.

(New York, NY, May 16, 2023) – **Johyun Gallery**, the leading gallery in Busan, Korea that has been championing Korean artists for nearly four decades, will present *Origin, Emergence, Return*, a special

exhibition at Rockefeller Center that celebrates modern and contemporary Korean art through the works of **Park Seo-Bo, Lee Bae, and Jin Meyerson** – each a leading artistic voice of his generation and beyond. *Origin, Emergence, Return* will be on view from June 8 to July 26, 2023 at the Rink Level Gallery at Rockefeller Center. Lee Bae's 21-foot site-specific sculpture of stacked charcoals will be on view at the Channel Gardens.

All three artists investigate and challenge the notions of abstraction through unique materials – Park with *hanji* (traditional Korean paper), Lee with charcoal, and Meyerson with CG (computer graphics) and AR (augmented reality). The exhibition begins with early to present works by post-war master Park Seo-Bo (b. 1931), the founder of Dansaekhwa and a defining figure of contemporary Korean art; followed by the works of Lee Bae (b. 1956), whose charcoal-based works embody such themes as life and death and presence and absence; and concludes with works by Jin Meyerson (b. 1972), whose practice integrates CG technology into painting and addresses issues of displacement and diaspora. As part of the exhibition, Lee will also unveil his large-scale site-specific outdoor sculpture of stacked charcoals at the Channel Gardens at Rockefeller Center, becoming the first Korean artist to exhibit at the Gardens. *Origin, Emergence, Return* will be on view from June 8 to July 26, 2023 at the Rink Level Gallery at Rockefeller Center, with an artist talk on June 8 from 5 to 6pm, followed by an opening reception from 6 to 8pm. This will be Johyun Gallery's first-ever exhibition outside Korea.

Origin – Largely regarded as the founder of the Korean Dansaekhwa, Park Seo-Bo represents the origin of post-war Korean art. Showcasing over 40 works by Park from the 1970s to the present, *Origin, Emergence, Return* highlights the artist's influential contribution to contemporary Korean art throughout his five-decade-long practice. Known for his signature work with Korean *hanji* paper, Park's famous 'Écriture' series that began in the 1960s is rooted in Korean traditions of calligraphy and the meditation of infinite possibility through simple materiality. Early works from the 'Écriture' series saw the artist use repetitive pencil lines incised into a still-wet monochromatic painted surface of different types of paper, eventually evolving to utilize *hanji* and introduce color. Presenting a retrospective of Park's work, *Origin, Emergence, Return* contextualizes the history of contemporary Korean art through a comprehensive survey of works created during Park's 'Écriture' era, widely regarded as the most consequential in his expansive oeuvre. Park's understanding of material as an element in his exploration of abstraction paved the way for later generations of contemporary Korean artists to explore materiality using unique mediums. Accompanying the exhibition will be a video art directed by Jifan Park, which details Park Seo-Bo's rigorous practice and offers a close-up view of the mesmerizing expansion and contraction of Park's masterful strokes. Presented on Samsung's flagship 146" LED display, The Wall IAB, the video invites visitors to experience Park's work from various perspectives.

Emergence – Lee Bae investigates the expressive potential of charcoal as a medium, reinterpreting the spirit of East Asian ink painting through his paintings and installations. Lee views charcoal as a symbol of the condensation of eternity in time for its production process, where a pine tree of 100 years' life cycle gains a thousand years of life in its new form. Lee's works on view include prominent examples of his 'Issu du Feu' (from the fire) series, which began in 1991 – each work in the series is made from cut charcoal attached to the canvas, with the tessellated surface polished to completion. Also on view will be new large-scale works on paper from the 'Brushstrokes' series, highlighting the calligraphical quality of strokes in which Kiunsengdong (기운생동; 氣韻生動, capturing the vivid essence of the subject) stays at the core of the artist's gestural painting process. Outside Rockefeller Center, Lee will become the first Korean artist to present an outdoor sculpture at the Channel Gardens at Rockefeller Center. Comprised of large masses of

his signature charcoal stacked tall, the work exists as a spiritual presence that transcends the burden of materiality, heralding heaven and earth to serve as the entryway to *Origin, Emergence, Return*. A huge charcoal lump, with its tree shape almost intact, evokes the unavoidable memory of disasters heard from around the world, while also creating a contrast to the surrounding skyscrapers and a sense of touching the dimension before or after civilization. In the midst of urban settings created by human concepts, bundling these natural properties of charcoal into a massive lump, not in any special shape or image, embodies a desire to purify what humans cannot solve.

Return – Born in Korea and adopted into a family in the United States, Jin Meyerson engages with issues of displacement, loss of heritage, post-colonialism, and the expansive Korean diaspora. For *Origin, Emergence, Return*, Meyerson will present new and recent paintings along with AR overlays. In the late 1990s, as a pioneer of Frontier Optics, Meyerson began to utilize early computer graphics and randomization software on scanned images to create large-scale immersive paintings, bridging figuration and abstraction. In searching for an alternative to the co-opted choreographies of normalized identity art and a non-hierarchical space to push painting beyond its limits as a purely expressive or pictorial medium, Meyerson began handing over images to scanners and early randomization software. Meyerson's work revolves around a dual narrative: the impossibility of expanding the present historical context of painting and the use of image sampling as a post-colonial recovery technique. His practice is centered on painting and has expanded into video and installation in parallel proximity to advancements in technology and the various locations he has lived and worked, including New York, Paris, Hong Kong, Jakarta, and Seoul.

Alongside *Origin, Emergence, Return*, Johyun Gallery will present three recent paintings by the Korean-German artist **Jongsuk Yoon** (b. 1965) in the lobby of the Simon & Schuster Building at 1230 Avenue of the Americas at Rockefeller Center. Inspired by the natural landscapes of Korea and influenced by the Expressionist movement, cave art and Asian ink paintings, Yoon's abstract paintings are "mindscapes" in which the introspective landscape of the artist's own thoughts and emotions merge with the outward landscape to manifest on canvas. This will be the first time Yoon's work is exhibited publicly in the United States.

Origin, Emergence, Return is presented as part of Rockefeller Center's celebration of Korean culture and heritage which will be held this July. New Yorkers will be invited to engage with Korean cuisine, fashion, art, music, and more at the Center this summer. The celebration will culminate in a week of festivities which will be held from July 19 to 23 and will include special events, offerings, and pop-ups in collaboration with retailers at Rockefeller Center. Following the success of the first and second annual "Mexico Week: Día De Muertos at Rockefeller Center," the first-ever celebration of Korean culture at the Center will continue Rockefeller Center's legacy as a global epicenter.

Rockefeller Center is a worldwide icon, built nearly a century ago by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. on the idea of making New York the prototype of a global city. Tishman Speyer is building on that vision today through reimagined public spaces, shops, restaurants, public art, and programming: making it the city's beating heart of contemporary culture, commerce, and community.

The 10,000-square-foot (1,000-square-meter) exhibition space is designed by studioMDA in close partnership with Johyun Gallery, Tishman Speyer and the three artists, Park Seo-Bo, Lee Bae and Jin Meyerson. Studio MDA has designed more than two dozen galleries, and over two hundred art fair booths. Showcasing their expertise in creating space for art, they recently finished the Timothy Taylor Gallery in

Tribeca, designed the Independent Art Fair, and the All Systems Fail exhibition for Sarah Morris at Deichtorhallen Contemporary Art Hall in Hamburg, Germany.

For more information, please visit www.johyungallery.com.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Origin, Emergence, Return

Rink Level Gallery at Rockefeller located at 610 5th Ave at Rink Level

June 8 to July 26, 2023

Artist Talk: June 8, 5-6pm

Opening Reception: June 8, 6-8pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 11 am to 6 pm (Mondays by appointment only)

About Johyun Gallery

Since its founding in Busan, Korea in 1989, Johyun Gallery has been advancing Korean artists both at home and abroad, bearing witness to the majority of modern and contemporary Korean art history. The gallery presented seminal exhibitions of post-war and Dansaekhwa artists Park Seo-Bo, Chung Chang Sup, Kim Jong Hak, Kim Tschang-Yeul, and Nam June Paik prior to their global recognition. Since 2007, Johyun has expanded its program to include projects and representation of notable international artists including Yayoi Kusama, Claude Viallat, Bernard Frize, Daniel Knorr, and Bosco Sodi, as well as artists of the Korean diaspora such as Ahn Jisan and Jongsuk Yoon. Today, the gallery hosts over ten solo exhibitions across its two gallery spaces annually, with a continued commitment to defining the present and future of contemporary art both domestically and internationally, while taking into account its critical and historical context.

About Park Seo-Bo

Park Seo-Bo is a seminal figure in Korean contemporary art. He is one of the founding members of the Dansaekhwa movement, which emerged in the early 1970s post-war Korea and has since gained international recognition. In the late 1960s, Park began the 'Ecriture' series by repeating pencil lines over wet monochromatic painted surface. Later, he expanded the language through the introduction of *hanji* (traditional Korean paper) and color. The work is brought into being through the process of repetitive actions of pasting, scraping, scratching, and rubbing. It delicately balances drawing and painting in a quest for emptiness through reduction.

Park's work has been exhibited internationally, including: Langen Foundation, Neuss; Museum of Fine Art, Boston; the Venice Biennale; Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul; Portland Museum of Art, Oregon; Singapore Art Museum; Kunsthalles Wien, Vienna; Tate Liverpool, UK; Brooklyn Museum, New York; and Expo 67, Montreal. Park's work is included in the collections of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; M+, Hong Kong; Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, UAE; The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul; and the K20, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Duesseldorf.

About Lee Bae

Based in Seoul and Paris, Lee Bae focuses on the expressive potential of charcoal as a medium. Over the course of nearly three decades, Lee has dedicated himself to creating a diverse range of iterations of Korean painting through his use of charcoal and abstract forms that are self-sufficient and rich in spiritual and energetic qualities. By exploring immanent notions such as yielding, respiring, and circulation, which are embodied by charcoal as a material, Lee's work resonates with themes of life and death, absence and presence, light and shadow, form, and emptiness. Lee's oeuvre spans a wide range of mediums and forms, from drawings to canvas-based works, as well as installations, with each new work serving to expand upon his unique vision and approach.

Lee's works have been featured at museums and institutions worldwide including: Phi Foundation, Montreal, Canada; Indang Museum, Daegu; Wilmotte Foundation, Venice; Paradise Art Space, Incheon; Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul de Vence; Musée des Beaux-Arts, Vannes; and Musée Guimet, Paris. Lee's work is in the permanent collections of many museums including the National Museum of Contemporary Art (MMCA), Gwacheon; Seoul Museum of Art (SEMA), Seoul; Leeum-Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul; Horim Museum, Seoul; Paradise Art Space, Incheon; Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul de Vence; Musée Guimet, Paris; Musée Cernuschi, Paris; Baruj Foundation, Barcelona; Privada Allegro Foundation, Madrid; Medianoche Foundation, Granada; and Phi Foundation, Montreal.

About Jin Meyerson

Jin Meyerson is a Korean American artist based in Seoul, whose history as a Korean adoptee, the complete loss of his family and all records of his birth, subsequent immigration to the US, and his eventual return to Korea has informed and defined his work for over three decades. Meyerson contributed to the revival of figurative painting as a first generation Zach Feuer gallery artist in New York, where he began his career, and is a pioneer of using early computer graphics and randomization software to create large-scale immersive paintings starting in the late 1990s. His work bridges figuration and abstraction and engages with issues of presence, identity, displacement, subverted history, post-colonialism, and the expansive Korean diaspora. His recent work employs LIDR scans, AR overlays and ideas of retro-causality, as means of connecting sources to points of origin in his longstanding investigation of meaning and contemporaneity in painting.

Meyerson's paintings have been featured in extensive solo and group exhibitions globally, including: The 2022 Venice Biennale, Gallery2 + Johyun Gallery, Seoul + Busan; M Woods Museum, Beijing; Zach Feuer Gallery, New York; Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris and Hong Kong; The Saatchi Gallery London; Galerie Nordine Zidoun, Luxembourg; Arario Gallery, Seoul and Cheonan; Hakgojae Gallery, Seoul and Shanghai; and Pearl Lam Gallery HK. Jin Meyerson's work can be found in numerous public and private collections, including: the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; MMCA Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul; SEMA Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul; The Saatchi Collection, London; Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels; Dean Valentine Collection, Los Angeles; the de la Cruz Collection, Miami; the Speyer Family Collection, New York; the Yuz Foundation, Jakarta and Shanghai; the Taguchi Art Collection, Tokyo; and the MACAN Museum, Jakarta.

About Tishman Speyer (tishmanspeyer.com)

Tishman Speyer is a leading owner, developer, operator and investment manager of first-class real estate in 33 key markets across the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America. Our portfolio spans market rate and affordable residential communities, premier office properties and retail spaces, industrial facilities, and mixed-use campuses. We create state-of-the-art life science centers through our Breakthrough

Properties joint venture, and foster innovation through our strategic proptech investments. With global vision, on-the-ground expertise and a personalized approach, we are unparalleled in our ability to foster innovation, quickly adapt to global and local trends and proactively anticipate our customers' evolving needs. By focusing on health and wellness, enlightened placemaking and customer-focused initiatives such as our tenant amenities platform, ZO, and our flexible space and co-working brand, Studio, we tend not just to our physical buildings, but to the people who inhabit them on a daily basis. Since our inception in 1978, Tishman Speyer has acquired, developed, and operated 531 properties, totaling 221 million square feet, with a combined value of approximately \$130 billion (U.S.). Our current portfolio includes such iconic assets as Rockefeller Center in New York City, The Springs in Shanghai, TaunusTurm in Frankfurt and the Mission Rock neighborhood currently being realized in San Francisco.

About Samsung Electronics America, Inc.

Samsung inspires the world and shapes the future with transformative ideas and technologies. The company is redefining the worlds of TVs, smartphones, wearable devices, tablets, digital appliances, network systems, and memory, system LSI, foundry, and LED solutions. For the latest news, please visit the Samsung Newsroom at news.samsung.com.

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