

Kiaf SEOUL

Kiaf 2023: Special programming & booth highlights



Leenam Lee, *The true light that gives light to every man*, 2022



Saengkwang Park, *Shaman12*,
ink & color on paper, 136x139 cm, 1984

(Seoul, Korea, August 17, 2023) – Kiaf releases booth highlights and special programs of the 2023 edition, including special exhibitions featuring traditional Korean paintings by 20th century masters and latest media art respectively, the third edition of the *We connect, Art & Future, Kiaf and Incheon Airport*, the inaugural Kiaf Highlights Award, and curated Talks Program in collaboration with Frieze Seoul and Korea Arts Management Service (KAMS). Kiaf SEOUL 2023 takes place at COEX from September 7 to 10, 2023, with a VIP preview on September 6. In total, 210 galleries from across the world will be featured, a significant increase from 164 galleries at the 2022 edition.

Booth Highlights

Reinforcing its mission to introduce contemporary Korean art and emerging Korean artists to a global audience, Kiaf 2023 will showcase more than 130 Korean galleries, providing an overview of Korea's thriving art scene and latest trends. In addition to Korean masters such as Chung Sang-hwa, Ha Chong Hyun, Lee Ufan, Park Seo-Bo, and Yun Hyong-keun among others, several closely watched emerging Korean artists will showcase their latest works at the fair. 2GIL29 Gallery's booth will include works by Junyoung Kang, whose intense colors and brush strokes are reminiscent of pop art and graffiti, while ARTSIDE Gallery will feature Suin Choi, who was recently named one of Forbes Korea's "20 Young Powerful People". Gallery Planet will highlight Soyoung Choi, who uses denim jeans as her canvas, while LeeSeoul Gallery will present works by Choongmok Yoo, who attaches glass pieces shaped like water droplets onto raw canvas. KICHE will showcase its program of diverse range of emerging artists, including Wonhae Hwang.

Alongside a strong representation of Korean exhibitors, numerous international galleries will return following the success of the 2022 edition. Peres Projects' booth will include works by Dylan Solomon Kraus and Donna Huanca, following the gallery's recent opening of its Seoul location in April. Works by Antony Gormley, whose sculptures explore the intricate connection between the human body and the universe, will be on view at Cristea Roberts Gallery and GALLERIA CONTINUA. MIZUMA & KIPS GALLERY will bring abstract and geometrical paintings by French American artist Jean Marie Haessle. Additionally, first-time exhibitor Galerie Marguo will dedicate its booth to Ana Kakar, who will showcase new paintings inspired by cult films such as the 1970s Italian giallos and Brian de Palma's erotic thrillers, as well as Korean psychological thrillers *Agassi* by Park Chan-wook and *A Tale of Two Sisters* by Kim Jee-woon. Another first-time exhibitor, Mind Set Art Center will present paintings by

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Marina Cruz, in which family stories and objects serve as the creative source.

In the Kiaf Solo section, eight galleries will dedicate their booths to a single artist. Belgium's Newchild will feature Madeleine Bialke, an emerging artist whose work explores the complex relationship between trees and humans. New York-based Denny Gallery will spotlight Jessie Edelman, who paints idyllic scenes in bold colors and patterns. Latvia's Lazy Mike will present new works by artist duo Ksusha Lastochka and Maxim Trulov, whose practice focuses on monochromatic rendering of graphic characters. Taiwan's V&E ART will spotlight Thomas Devaux following his successful solo presentations at Art Paris and Art Taipei recently. Korean galleries dohing art and Seogallery will respectively present Minyoung Kim, whose works investigate inner emotions through still life, and Kyoungyeon Chung, whose 40-year career is known for her "glove art." Hong Kong's Odds and Ends will present Toronto-based artist Peter Chan, who analyzes East Asian superstitions, identities, and gender ideologies to form his own new narratives. GALLERY BAUM's booth will focus on works by Gina Son that are based on her land art.

Following its successful debut in 2022, Kiaf Plus – dedicated to emerging artists and new media – will be staged at the Grand Ballroom of COEX, directly connected to the fair's main halls. At Kiaf Plus, SARAHCROWN from New York will showcase works by Korean artist Eunjung Park that express the artist's personal experiences around themes of immigration and migration. SWIVEL GALLERY, established in 2021 in Brooklyn, will present three female artists Ivana Štulić, Krista Louise Smith, and Kajin Kim. Works by Sally Kindberg, Giorgiko, and Sophie Vallance Cantor will be on view at EM GALLERY's booth. Gallery KUZO will highlight Casper Kang, whose work involves creating abstract compositions involving the destruction of hanji (traditional Korean paper).

Media Art Special Exhibition – Gray Box Area: Space as an Event

Screen-based video experiences have evolved beyond the confines of flat rectangular frames to encompass a variety of forms, places, and depths. The special exhibition *Gray Box Area: Space as an Event* will focus on the developing concept of immersive exhibitions and explore the current state of media art in Korea and its impact on society, life, and culture.

The "Gray Box" from the exhibition title is inspired by a software testing method, in which testers are provided with partial knowledge of the code in order to effectively uncover systematic defects from the perspective of the user rather than the designer. The exhibition will present two immersive spaces, or "Gray Boxes," that utilize projectors and LEDs respectively and invite visitors to participate as a "tester" in each space. The spatiotemporal changes of the works inside the Gray Box and the viewer's experience of the Gray Box will be interconnected, evolving and developing into a "space as event" in real time. Participating artists include renowned Korean new media artists such as Sungrok Choi, Seunghyo Jang, KoHui, Leenam Lee, Yeseung Lee, Mooni Perry, Joon Moon, Kiwoun Shin, Studio Artech, and a group of artists representing Korea Media Arts Association.

Gray Box Area: Space as an Event is co-curated by Dae-chan Heo, Editor-in-Chief of Aliceon, Korea's first-ever online news platform dedicated to new media culture; and artist Jae-hyung Lee, a researcher and planner in the field of technology-mediated culture.

Special Exhibition – Rehyun Park & Saengkwang Park: Hometown to the Unadulterated Colors

Kiaf presents *Hometown to the Unadulterated Colors*, a special exhibition of 20th century masters Rehyun Park and Saengkwang Park that reexamines the history and significance of polychrome painting in Korea. While polychrome paintings with strong primary colors (or the quintet of *Obangsaek* – the five traditional Korean colors encompassing white, black, blue, yellow, and red) were overlooked in post-war Korea, their history rich traces back to 3-7th century Goguryeo murals to Buddhist paintings in Goryeo (918-1392) and Joseon (1392-1897) dynasties. Both Rehyun Park and

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Saengkwang Park were at the forefront of reviving the tradition of polychrome Korean painting and continuing its legacy in their own independent styles. The exhibition at Kiaf brings together highlights from the artists' recent duo exhibition at Hangaram Art Museum in Seoul, now introducing their works to a global audience visiting the fair. *Hometown to the Unadulterated Colors* is organized by art critic Bummo Youn and independent curator Yoonsub Kim.

Kiaf Highlights Award

Newly introduced this year, Kiaf Highlights Award is an initiative presented by the Kiaf Organizing Committee with the support of co-organizer Coex, aimed to promote and support emerging and mid-career artists exhibiting at Kiaf whose practice represents and shapes today's zeitgeist. 20 artists have been selected by a panel of art world professionals including Kye-hoon Ha, critic and Operating Committee Chair of Gangwon Triennale; Henna Joo, Professor of Hongik University Graduate School, Dept. Arts and Cultural Management; Bog-gi Kim, President of *Art in Culture*; Jin-yup Kim, Chairman of Korea Art Critic Association; and Iain Robertson, Honorary Fellow at Sotheby's Institute of Art. In the lead up to the fair's opening, in-depth interviews with the selected artists will publish online on Kiaf's website and in *Marie Claire Korea*. Three finalists selected by the panel and public online voting will be awarded a total grant of 30 million won.

Selected artists include: Bunpei Kado of ART FRONT GALLERY, Rithika Merchant of Galerie LJ, Jongok Ri of Gallery Q, Ilhwa Kim of HOFA Gallery, Kota Nakamura of Mizoe Art Gallery, Adam Neate of The Spectacle Group, Oona Brangam-Snell of Mrs., Zikseong Jeong of LEE & BAE, Woonghyun Kim of Gallery 2, Myungjin Kim of Gallery GAIA, Sungpil Chae of Gallery Grimson, Jungyeob Jung of GalleryMEME, Artist Kun of KEUMSAN GALLERY, Na Jeomsoo of The Page Gallery, Manna Lee of SUNGALLERY, Jinu Nam of Space Willing N Dealing, Youjin Yi of WOOSON GALLERY, Jongsung Jo of Johyun Gallery, Jungmin Lee of G Gallery, and Hyung-Geun Park of PNC GALLERY.

Talks Program in association with Frieze Seoul and Korea Arts Management Service (KAMS)

The Talks Program hosted in collaboration with Frieze Seoul and KAMS will offer an ambitious agenda reflecting on some of the most salient issues in the international art world today. Designed to both create and strengthen relationships between artists, writers, and cultural heavyweights, the Talks Program promises to cultivate new ideas through spirited debate. Topics broached in these sessions will include insight into K-Art, the Asian art fairs ecosystem, Korean experimental art, effects of artificial intelligence in art, new media art, collecting, environment and artist talks.

The Talks Program will take place at Studio 159 at COEX from September 7 to 9, 2023. The discussions will include a host of leading industry figures and artists: Doryun Chong (Deputy Director, M+), Kim Heecheon (Artist), Kim Inbai (Artist), Eva Jäger (Curator, Arts Technology, Serpentine), Seng Yu Jin (Senior Curator and Deputy Director, National Gallery Singapore), Yung Ma (Curator, Hayward Gallery), and more.

The third edition of *We connect, Art & Future, Kiaf and Incheon Airport*

After the success of the previous editions in 2021 and 2022, Kiaf and the Incheon International Airport present the third edition of *We connect, Art & Future, Kiaf and Incheon Airport* featuring more than 60 contemporary artworks by 30 emerging artists under 49 and focusing on contemporary paintings with a youthful sense. On view on the mezzanine floor of the Terminal 1 Transportation Centre of the Incheon International Airport, the exhibition will welcome travelers from across the world from August 28 to September 17, 2023.

We connect, Art & Future, Kiaf and Incheon Airport will feature 20 galleries selected from the exhibitors of Kiaf SEOUL 2023, including Gallery Artsoop, Gallery Bakyoung, Gallery FM, Galerie Gaia, Gallery iLHO, Gallery Jeon, Gallery We, Gallery Woo, Gallery Yoon, lah, K.O.N.G. Gallery,

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Keumsan Gallery, Leeseoul Gallery, Gallery Miz, Park Ryu Sook Gallery, Pnc Gallery, Seojung Art, Seoshin Gallery, Spacenamuro Gallery, and Sun Gallery.

Gangnam Art: Cheongdam Night

Gangnam Art will host Cheongdam Night in collaboration with Kiaf SEOUL 2023 on September 6, featuring a wide range of programs such as docent tours, DJ parties, wine tasting events, and more, with galleries and institutions in the Cheongdam-dong area of Gangnam participating. Participating galleries and institutions include Gallery NoW, Gallery Planet, Songeun, Atelier Hermès, Espace Louis Vuitton Seoul, Opera Gallery, UARTSPACE, Lee Eugene Gallery, G Gallery, König, Perrotin, White Cube, Gladstone, and Duarte Sequeira Seoul.

Samcheong Gallery Night

Exhibitors of Kiaf SEOUL and Frieze Seoul located in Samcheong-dong area will welcome visitors to Samcheong Gallery Night on September 7, during which participating galleries will open for extended hours and showcase the most recent exhibitions with the audiences from all around the world. Participating galleries and institutions include Kukje Gallery, Gallery Hyundai, PKM Gallery, Hakgoj ae, Seoul Museum of Craft Art, and Art Sonje Center.

For more information about events during Kiaf SEOUL 2023, please visit <https://kiaf.org/events>.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Kiaf Seoul

Founded in 2002 by the Galleries Association of Korea, Kiaf SEOUL is South Korea's first and longest running contemporary art fair. Today, the fair serves as a unique meeting point that bridges the Korean art scene and the international art market, showcasing over 160 galleries each year. For more information, please visit <https://kiaf.org/> and follow us on [Instagram](#).

About the Galleries Association of Korea

The Galleries Association of Korea was founded in 1976 with a mission to facilitate broader and deeper appreciation of art in Korea, contribute to fostering a healthy art market, and to advance Korean art on an international stage. Today, the Association – consisted of more than 160 galleries nationwide – organizes art fairs (Kiaf and Galleries Art Fair) and operates The Art Appraisal Committee and The Art Policy Research Centre.

Opening Dates & Hours

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COEX 1F, Hall A, B & Grand Ballroom (513 Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul)

VIP Opening (by invitation only):

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 1pm to 8pm

General Admission:

Thursday, September 7 to Sunday, September 10, 2023, 11am to 7:30pm (until 5pm on the last day)

Press Accreditation

All media professionals attending and covering Kiaf Seoul must apply for accreditation online at <https://kiaf.org/press>. Frieze Seoul's press accreditation can be found on the same page. Please note that onsite accreditation is not possible.

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