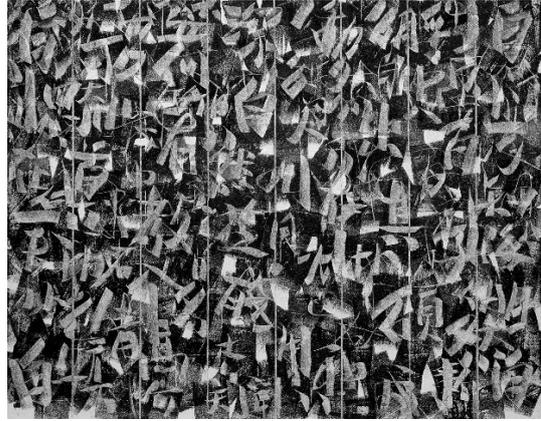


Kiaf SEOUL

Kiaf 2025: Booth Highlights & Special Programs



Nung-Hsuan Cheng, *Position for Gathering no.2*, 2025.
Courtesy of Artemin Gallery.



Chungji Lee, *o-2001-55*, Oil on canvas, 116.8x91cm, 2001.
Courtesy of SUN GALLERY

(Seoul, Korea, August 7, 2025) – Kiaf announces booth highlights and special programming for its 2025 edition, including the third annual Kiaf HIGHLIGHTS Award; a special exhibition on the act of collecting as an artistic practice; and a curated Talks Program in collaboration with Frieze Seoul and Korea Arts Management Service (KAMS).

Kiaf SEOUL 2025 will take place at COEX from September 4 to 7, 2025, with a VIP preview on September 3. The 24th edition of Kiaf SEOUL will bring together 175 international and domestic galleries across the main exhibition Halls A, B, and Grand Ballroom at COEX.

Booth Highlights

Kiaf SEOUL 2025 will host over 125 Korean galleries alongside participants from more than 20 countries and territories, reaffirming the fair's role as a leading platform for global engagement with Korea's vibrant art scene.

The fair will highlight works by celebrated Korean modernists such as Seo-Bo Park and Whanki Kim, while also spotlighting a new wave of globally recognized Korean artists. Among the standout presentations from Korean galleries, **Kukje Gallery** (Seoul) will present works by internationally acclaimed artists, including Anish Kapoor, Ugo Rondinone, and Ha Chong-Hyun, among others. **Gallery Shilla** (Daegu) will stage a solo presentation by the Seoul-based art and technology collective Kimchi and Chips. Striking a balance between major international and Korean artists, **313 ART PROJECT** (Seoul) presents works by artists including Antony Gormley and Lee Ufan. **Sun Gallery** (Seoul) showcases a curated selection of works by modern and contemporary artists, including Chungji Lee and Pato Bosich. Additional highlights include **Johyun Gallery** (Busan) and **021GALLERY** (Daegu), whose programs exemplify the bold experimentation defining Korea's current art moment.

This year's edition also features a robust lineup of international exhibitors in the main GALLERIES section, including a dynamic mix of returning and first-time participants.

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Vazieux (Paris) returns with a joint presentation of works by Ungno Lee and In-Kyung Park, illuminating both the artistic commonalities and the shared life journey of these two artists.

Galerie Zink (Seubersdorf) presents Cinta Vidal's disorienting architectural scenes, Matias Sanchez's impasto-rich figuration, Johannes Nagel's contemporary porcelain works, Muntean/Rosenblum's image-text paintings exploring modern ennui, and Anna Leonhardt's bold abstractions drawn from daily life. **Ming Dian Gallery** (New Taipei City) presents a curated selection of playful, surreal, and figurative works by French and Italian contemporary artists Leo & Steph, Angelo Accardi, and Simone Fugazzotto. **DIE GALERIE** (Frankfurt am Main) showcases modern masterpieces by Pablo Picasso, André Masson, and Pierre Alechinsky.

Featuring **19** booths this year, Kiaf PLUS will spotlight material experimentation and cross-cultural exchange from emerging voices across Korean and the global contemporary art scene. Highlights include **Gallery DA SUN** (Gwacheon), featuring Esther Wang's layered cityscapes that merge urban and natural imagery to explore how place shapes memory and emotion; **SARAH CROWN** (New York), showcasing works by Heekyoung Jeon, Bushi, and Peter Depelchin, bringing together emerging voices from Asia and Europe with distinctive narrative and visual approaches; and **Artemin Gallery** (Taipei) presenting Nung-Hsuan Cheng (Taiwan), Mirza Cizmic (Finland), and Bram Kinsbergen (Belgium), whose works explore memory and perception through layered abstraction, dark humor, and atmospheric figuration

Kiaf HIGHLIGHTS Award: 10 Semi-finalists Announcement

Kiaf SEOUL returns with the third edition of the Kiaf HIGHLIGHTS Award, an initiative launched in 2023 to recognize and promote outstanding emerging artists participating in the fair. The 2025 award centers on the theme "Resonance," highlighting 10 shortlisted emerging artists whose works demonstrate innovation, identity, conceptual rigor, and artistic excellence. A jury comprised of prominent museum curators in Korea selected the finalists from a pool of artists nominated by exhibiting galleries.

The 10 semi-finalists for the 2025 Kiaf HIGHLIGHTS Award are Moonassi of EM GALLERY (Seoul), Eunsi Jo of GalleryMEME (Seoul), Sejin Hong of Gallery PLANET (Seoul), Donghoon Rhee of Gallery SP (Seoul), Ahra Kim of Kimreeaa Gallery (Seoul), Jungin Kim of La Heen (Seoul), Yu Xiao of Lucie Chang Fine Arts (Hong Kong), Geoffroy Pithon of MAËT Gallery (Paris), Nohwan Park of Space Willing N Dealing (Seoul), and Grim Park of THEO (Seoul).

In the lead-up to the fair, interviews and features on the 10 selected artists will be published across Kiaf's social media platforms and included in the Kiaf SEOUL 2025 catalog, offering deeper insight into their practices and perspectives. In addition, the artists' works will be showcased on media facades throughout Seoul, bringing their visions into public view in the lead-up to and during the fair. On the fair's preview day, the jury will announce the three award winners, each of whom will receive KRW 10 million in recognition of their artistic excellence.

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Special Exhibition: *Reverse Cabinet*

Kiaf SEOUL 2025's special exhibition *Reverse Cabinet* commemorates the 60th anniversary of Korea–Japan diplomatic relations through a cross-cultural presentation that reimagines the act of collecting as an artistic practice. Co-curated by Yuli Yoon, Chief Curator of Ilmin Museum of Art, and Tomoya Iwata, Director of Tokyo's alternative space The 5th Floor, the exhibition features the collection and reconfiguration of works by six emerging artists: Sunpil Don, Jihye Yeom, Geumhyung Jeong, and Kai Oh from Korea; and Kei Takemura and Sen Takahashi from Japan.

Reverse Cabinet examines how contemporary Korean and Japanese artists interpret their cultural contexts through the creation of personal “cabinets” composed of sculptural installations, digital media, video, and archival materials. The exhibition reflects on collecting not as an act of possession, but as a critical act of creation, memory-making and intergenerational dialogue. From found objects and internet imagery to ephemeral experiences and personal memories, each artist explores how individual acts of collecting are shaped by identity, cultural inheritance, and creative authorship. In this process, the conventional distinctions between artist, collector, and viewer become fluid, framing collecting as a dynamic practice of meaning-making and reinterpretation of cultural contexts.

Sunpil Don draws from subculture and character imagery to examine how stylized faces compress and communicate personal identity and personality. Geumhyung Jeong critically explores the relationship between humans and objects by combining machines, dolls, and everyday items with her own body. Jihye Yeom creates immersive video works inspired by myths and science fiction, extracting fragments to reflect on memory and speculative narratives. Kai Oh collects digital images and transforms them into photo-sculptural installations, capturing moments where images intervene in bodily perception. Kei Takemura meticulously mends broken everyday objects with silk thread, preserving the tactile traces of memory beyond their original function. Sen Takahashi conceptually collects and exhibits the process of decay, revealing the natural corrosion and dissolution of materials over time, thereby challenging the display case's illusion of permanence.

Presented within the dynamic environment of an art fair, the exhibition invites viewers to reconsider the relationship between collecting and contemporary art. Through the “cabinets” on view, *Reverse Cabinet* offers insights into shared and divergent sensibilities of artists and collectors as shaped by regional influence and generational experience.

The exhibition will be on view throughout the fair across COEX Halls A, B, and the Grand Ballroom.

For more information about *Reverse Cabinet*, please visit [here](#).

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

Co-hosted by Kiaf SEOUL, the Korea Arts Management Service (KAMS), and Frieze Seoul, the 2025 Talks Program brings together key figures from the Korean and international art

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worlds to explore critical issues in contemporary art and foster new discourse through dialogue with the Korean art scene.

Comprising nine sessions across three days, the program offers diverse perspectives on the social, technological, and cultural transformations shaping the arts today. Highlights include discussions on the evolving role of foundations in shaping the future of the art world; how queer Asian artists use archival practices as tools of historical resistance; socially engaged art in Asia amid times of change; the challenges and strategies of emerging galleries; the creative implications of AI; and the global trajectory of Korean contemporary art.

Free and open to the public, the three-day program will take place from Thursday, September 4 to Saturday, September 6 at STUDIO 159 on the second floor of COEX, Seoul.

For the full program schedule and list of speakers, please visit [here](#).

2025 Korea Arts Festival

The Korea Arts Festival is a nationwide initiative supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, celebrating the diversity and vitality of Korea's cultural landscape through a wide range of programs.

Among the festival's key programs, **Gallery Nights** will run from September 2 to 4, featuring local galleries and art institutions with extended exhibition hours and special events across three of Seoul's art districts. Many Kiaf SEOUL exhibitors will participate alongside leading local galleries, offering visitors a broader look into the city's distinctive art scenes. On September 2 in **Hannam**, participants include Leeum Museum of Art, BHAK, Gallery SP, and Gallery Joeun. On September 3, Gallery Nights continue in **Cheongdam**, featuring SONGEUN, Galerie GAIA, Gallery Grappe, GALLERY WE, and GALERIE PICI. The program concludes on September 4 in **Samcheong**, featuring Art Sonje Center, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), Kukje Gallery, HAKGOJAE GALLERY, GALLERY YEH, and LEE HWAIK Gallery..

In celebration of the 2025 Korea Arts Festival, Kiaf and Frieze co-launched a special promotion offering a 30% discount on joint admission to Kiaf and Frieze Seoul. The limited number of discounted tickets sold out within two days, underscoring strong public interest in the fairs.

For more information about events during Kiaf SEOUL 2025, please visit [here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

Talks Program Schedule

Thursday, September 4

- **Art Foundations and the Ecology of the Art World:** Zoe Butt (Founder, in-tangible institute), Laurencina Farrant (Director, Songeun Art Center), Stefanie Hessler (Director, Swiss Institute), Gabriel Ritter (Director, UCSB Art, Design & Architecture Museum; Associate Professor, History of Art & Architecture)

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- **Queer Asian Art and the Technology of Re-memoring:** Sin Wai Kin (Artist), Sung Hwan Kim (Artist), Candice Lin (Artist), Yongwoo Lee (Curator and Assistant Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- **Artistic Imagination between Reality and Virtual:** Adrian Villar Rojas (Artist), A Young Kim (Artist), Sunjung Kim (Artistic Director, Art Sonje Center)

Friday, September 5

- **Socially Engaged Art Across Asia:** Patrick Flores (Deputy Director of Curatorial and Research, National Gallery Singapore), Bo Zheng (Associate Professor of Media Art, City University of Hong Kong), Amy Cheng (Senior Curator, Singapore Art Museum), Sohl C. Lee (Associate Professor, Stony Brook University)
- **Engines of Change: How Seoul's Emerging Galleries Are Shaping the Scene:** Seung Min Lee (Director, A-Lounge), Ji Hyejin (Director, Sangheeut), Nahyung Kim (Director, ThisWeekendRoom), Inseon Kim (Director, Space: Willing N Dealing), Jaesuk Kim (Director, XLARGE GALLERY)
- **KAMS x AAP Book Talk: Contingent Worlds:** CHE Onejoon (Artist, AfroAsia Collective), Gyeol Ko (Artist, ikkibawiKrrr), Michele Chan (Managing Editor, *ArtAsiaPacific*)

Saturday, September 6

- **Global Perspectives on the Korean Art Market:** Jiseon Lee Isbara (President, School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Vivienne Chow (London Correspondent, *Artnet News*), Mami Kataoka (Director, Mori Art Museum), Kim Sang-hoon (Professor, Seoul National University Business School)
- **Questioning Creativity: Art and the New Frontier:** Jinjoon Lee (Artist & Professor, Graduate School of Culture Technology, KAIST), Alfredo Cramerotti (Director, Media Majlis Museum), Hyojung Seo (Artist & Professor, SADI), Iain Robertson (Professor, Department of Culture and Arts Management, Hongik University)
- **Special Exhibition Talk: A Mind on Display:** Tomoya Iwata (Director, The 5th Floor), Ju-mi Park (Psychiatrist, Art Collector), Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah (Chairman & Founder, Dib Bangkok; Art Collector), Bryant Chao (Art Collector), Yuli Yoon (Chief Curator, Ilmin Museum of Art)

About Kiaf SEOUL

Founded in 2002 by the Galleries Association of Korea, Kiaf SEOUL is South Korea's first international art fair. Today, the fair serves as a unique meeting point that bridges the Korean art scene and the international art market, showcasing leading galleries from around the world 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 – consisting of more than 180 galleries nationwide – organizes art fairs (Kiaf and Galleries Art Fair) and operates

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The Art Appraisal Committee and The Art Policy Research Centre.

Opening Dates & Hours

Kiaf SEOUL 2025

COEX 1F, Hall A & B; 2F (513 Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul)

VIP & Press Preview (by invitation only):

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 11am to 3pm (Kiaf VIP cardholders only)

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 3pm to 8pm (Kiaf or Frieze VIP cardholders)

Thursday, September 4, 2025, 11am to 7pm (Kiaf or Frieze VIP cardholders, Preview passholders)

General Admission:

Thursday, September 4, 2025, 1pm to 7pm

Friday, September 5, 2025, 11am to 7pm

Saturday, September 6, 2025, 11am to 7pm

Sunday, September 7, 2025, 11am to 6pm (Kiaf Only)

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