

Intro to Contemporary Korean Art

Student Instructor name: Camryn Bazán

Minjung Kim, *Sculpture*, 2022, mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper, 130 x 180 cm

About Me ...

Name: Camryn Bazan

- 4th year Art History
- AA Studio Art
- 7 years Art training



KOCIS

해외문화홍보원

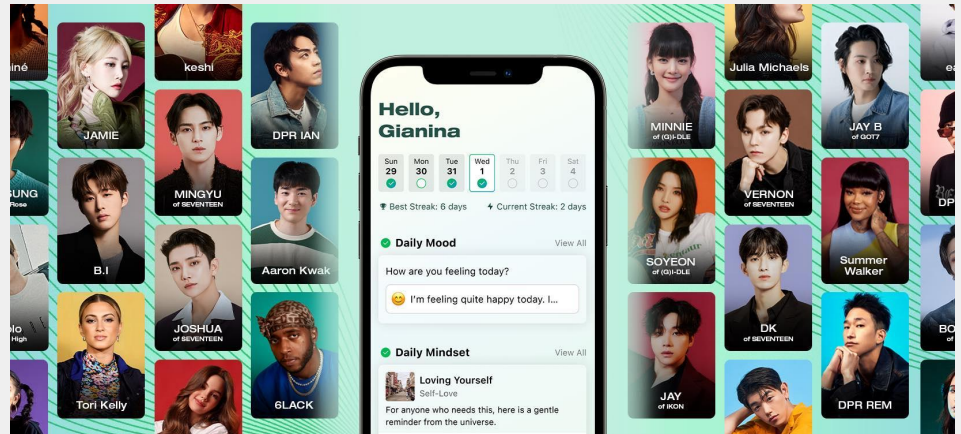
Korean Culture and Information Service

MINDSET

BY DIVE STUDIOS

Fun Facts!

- KOCIS reporter
- Mindset ambassador



What is Art History?

“...historical study of the visual arts, being concerned with identifying, classifying, describing, evaluating, interpreting, and understanding the art products and historic development of the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, the decorative arts, drawing, printmaking, photography, interior design, etc.”

- **Visual analysis**
- **Style**
- **Iconography**
- **Function**
- **etc...**



THE STONE AGE

25,000 B.C. - 2500 B.C.



GREEK & ROMAN ART

850 B.C. - A.D. 476



BYZANTINE & ISLAMIC

A.D. 476 - A.D. 1453



MANNERISM

1527 - 1580



NEOCLASSICAL ART

1750 - 1850



REALISM

1840 - 1900



POST IMPRESSIONISM

1885 - 1910



CUBISM

1910 - 1920's



ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

1940's - 1950's



CONTEMPORARY ART

1950's -

KITCHENTABLECLASSROOM.COM

EGYPTIAN ART

3100 B.C. - 30 B.C.



CHINESE & JAPANESE ART

653 B.C. - A.D. 1910



ART OF THE MIDDLE AGES

500 - 1400



BAROQUE

1600 - 1750



ROMANTIC ART

1780 - 1850



IMPRESSIONISM

1865 - 1885



FAUVISM & EXPRESSIONISM

1900 - 1915



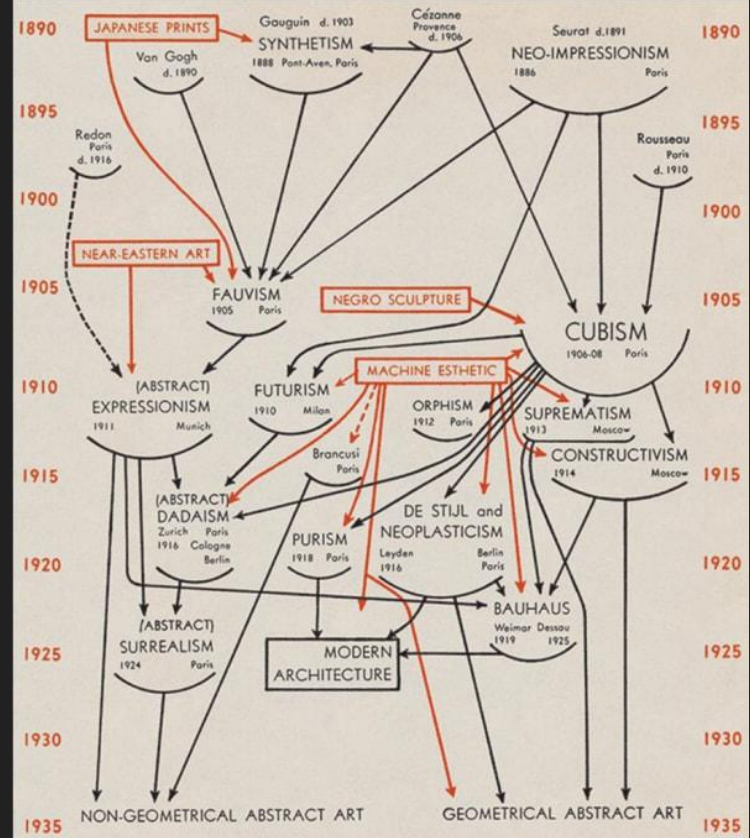
DADA & SURREALISM

1917 - 1950



POP ART

1957 - 1960



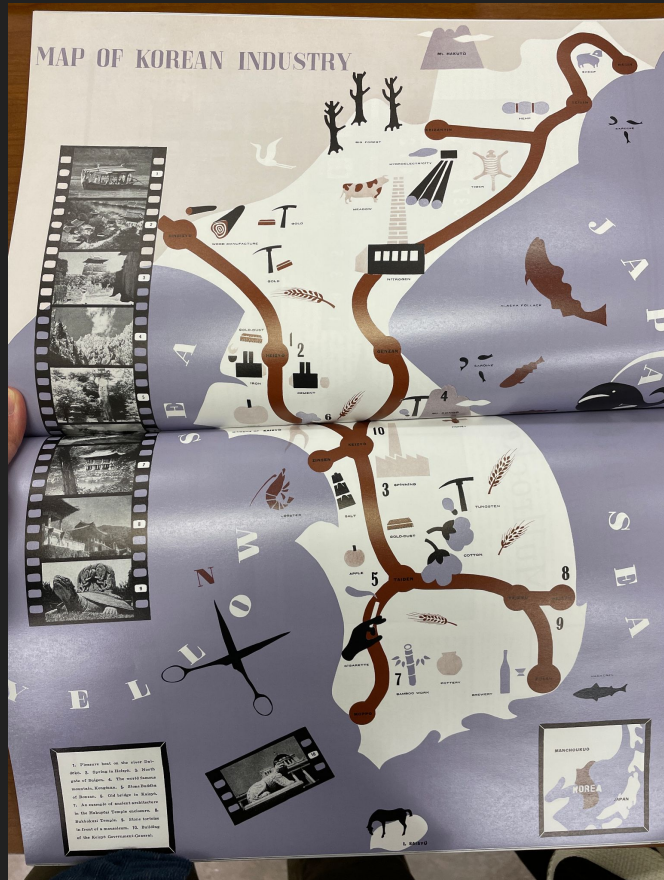
CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART

European

Korea



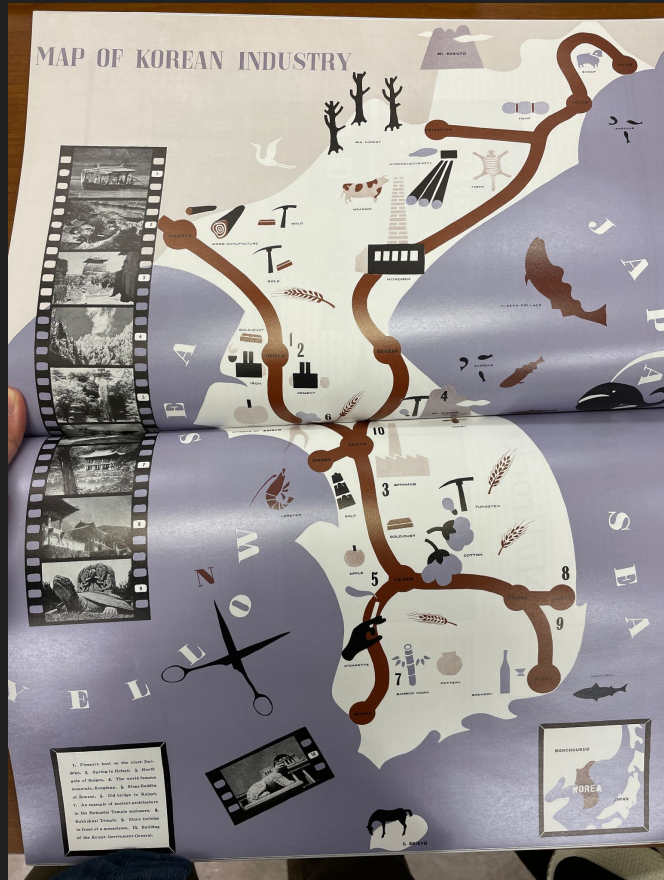
Timeline



Nippon magazine (1930s)

- 1894- 95- Sino-Japanese War
- 1897- Korea becomes an empire
- 1905- signing of Eulsa Treaty
- 1910- Korea officially colonized by Japan
 - Saek art
- 1922- Joseon Art Exhibition
- 1939- WWII starts
- 1945- Japanese Colonial Rule Ended
- 1950-53- Korean War
- 1953- BEGINNING OF CONTEMPORARY
- 1960-70- *Dansaekhwa* art
- 1980- Gwangju Uprising, “Gwangju Massacre”
- 1980-90- *Minjung* and *Post-Minjung* art
- 1987- June democratic Uprising
- 1988- Seoul Olympics
- 1990s- “birth” of kpop and modern korean music
- 1993- Whitney Biennale in Seoul
- 1993- *seggyehwa* (globalization policy)
- 1995- Gwangju Biennale
- 1997- Asian Financial Crisis
- 1998- Busan Biennale
- 2000- Mediacity Seoul Biennale

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MODERN

CONTEMPORARY

End of Korean War



Limb Eung-sik, *Job Hunting (detail)*, 1954
Gelatin silver print, 50.5 x 40 cm



Kim Whanki

김환기 (1913-1974)

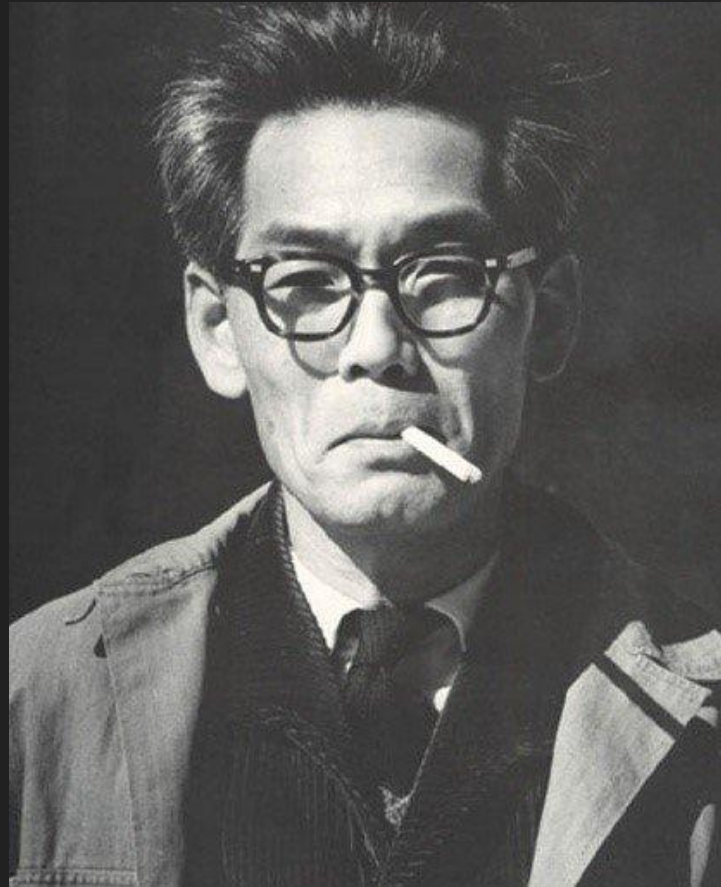
Born in South Jeolla Province on
Kijwa island

Studied abroad in Tokyo

Returned back to Japan to avoid
being married and become an artist

Attended the Department of arts at
Nihon University

Joined the Avant-Garde Western
Painting Institute





Kim Whanki, *Mountain and Moon*, 1958, oil on canvas



Kim Whanki, *Mountain and Moon*, 1957, oil on canvas

Park Sookeun

박수근 (1914-1965)

**Born in Gangwon-do
Province**

**Learned to paint without
official training due to
financial difficulties**

**1932, first prize at 11th annual
Joseon Arts Exhibition**

**Defected from North Korea in
1950, leaving behind many of
his paintings**



Park Sookeun

*Playing
Children*

1963

oil on canvas
96.6 x 130.5 cm



Dansaekhwa 단색 (Monotone painting)

Late 1960s -1970s

화

Not an official art group

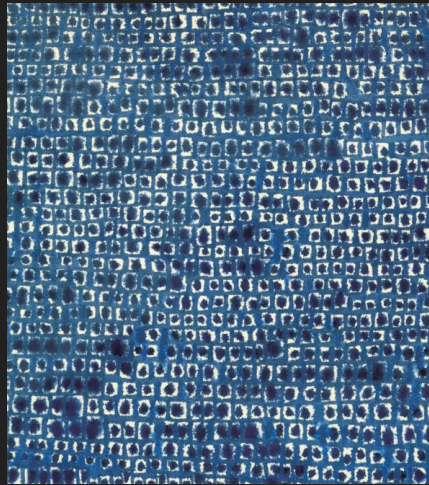
Emphasis on “mark, line, frame, surface, and space” around their mediums

Minimal color palette - “mono” (one) tone

Became international face of contemporary Korean art

Artists:

- Cho Yong-ik
- Choi Myoung Young
- Choi Byung-so
- Chung Chang-sup
- Chung Sang-hwa
- Ha Chong Hyun
- Hur Hwang
- Kim Guiline
- Kim Tschang-yeul
- Kwon Young-woo
- Lee Dong-youb
- Lee Kang-so
- Lee Seung-jio
- Lee Ufan
- Park Seo-bo
- Suh Seung-won
- Yun Hyong-keun
- Kim Whanki



Kim Whanki, 1-VI-70 #174



Ha Chongyun, Work 74-06, 1974

Lee Ufan

이우환 (b. 1936)

Born in Hamman-gun
Gyeongsangnam-do during
Japanese colonization

Received in youth training in
ink brush painting

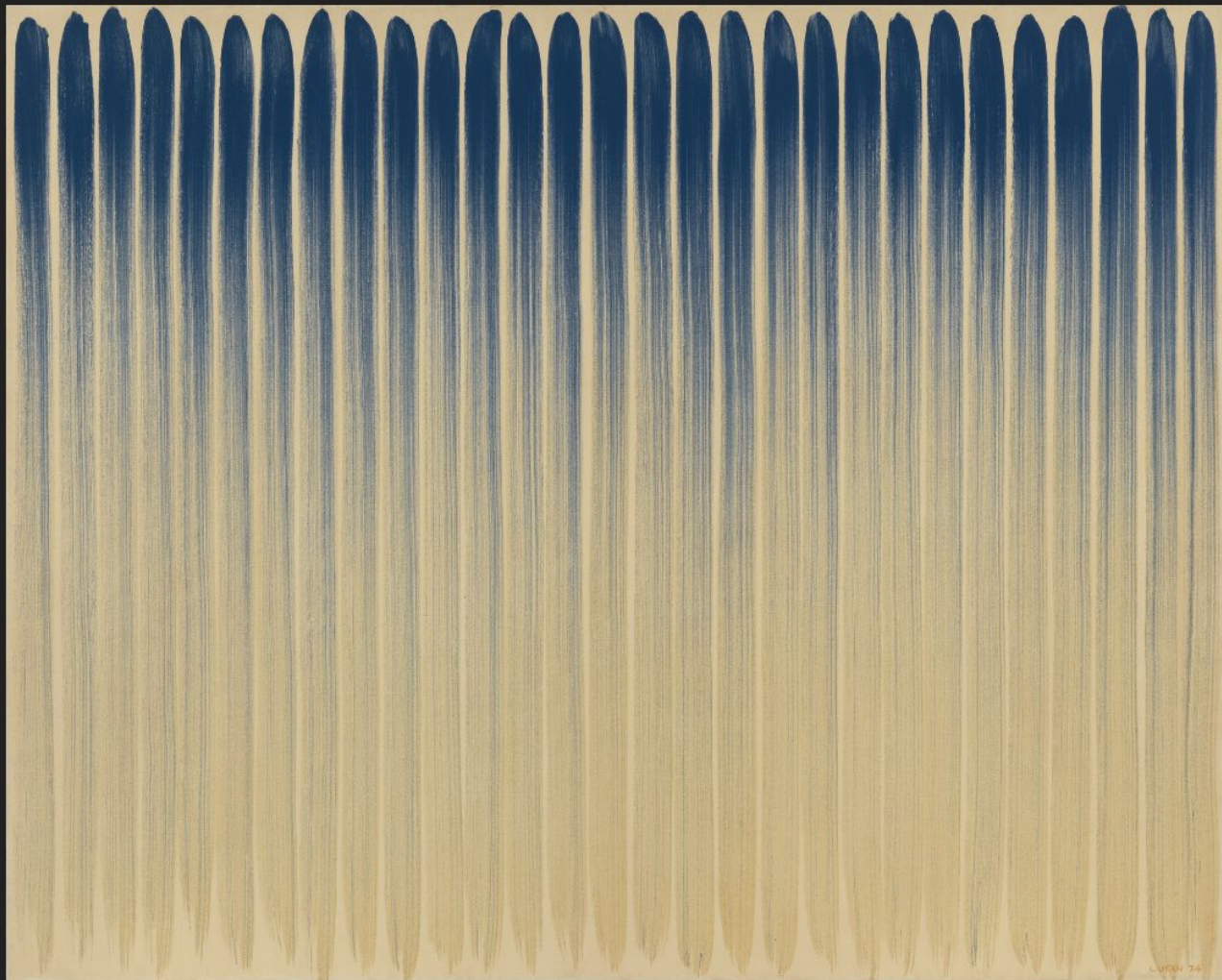
Studied painting at Seoul
National University

Moved to yokohama japan in
1956 to study philosophy,
degree in 1961 at Nihon
University, Tokyo

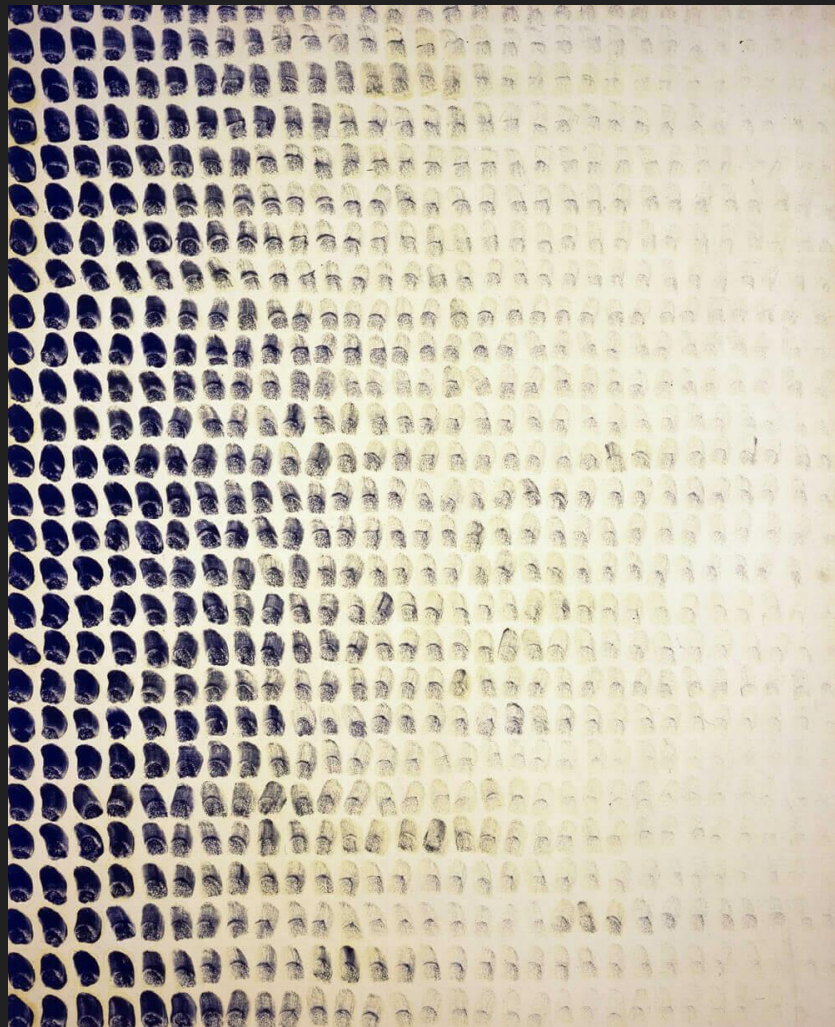
Leader in Japanese Mono-ha
movement



Lee Ufan, *From Line*, 1973
Oil paint and glue on canvas
181.8 cm x 227.5 cm



Lee Ufan, *From Point*, 1973
Oil paint and glue on canvas
194 x 259 cm



Yun Hyong-keun

윤형근 (1928-2007)

Born in Cheongwon-gun
(present day Cheongju)

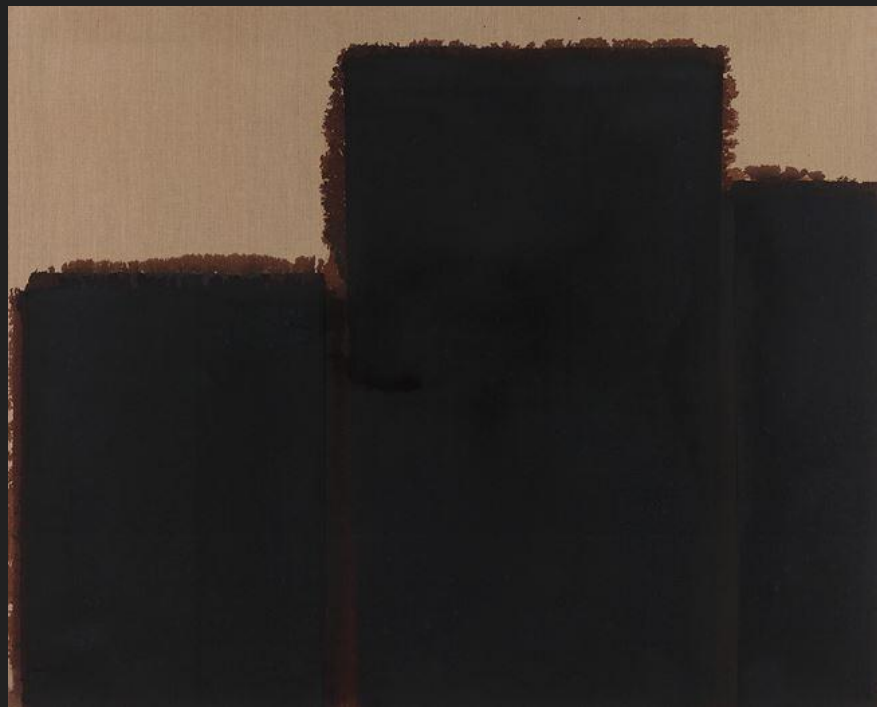
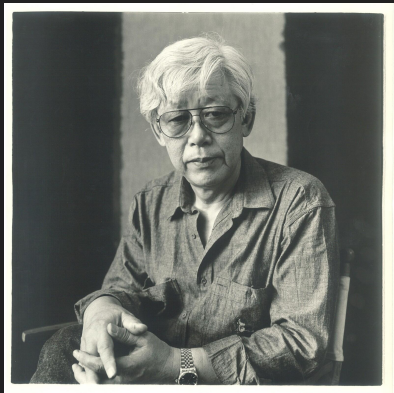
Received art direction at
Cheongju Commercial
School, graduated in 1945

Attend College of Fine Arts at
Seoul National University

Was under training by Kim
Whanki

Expelled from SNU in 1949

Blacklisted until the 1980s

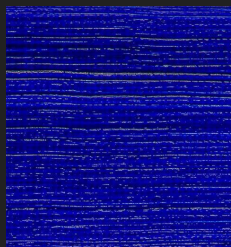


Yun Hyong-keun, *Burnt Umber and Ultramarine Blue*, 1992
Oil on Linen, 130.4 x 162.4 cm

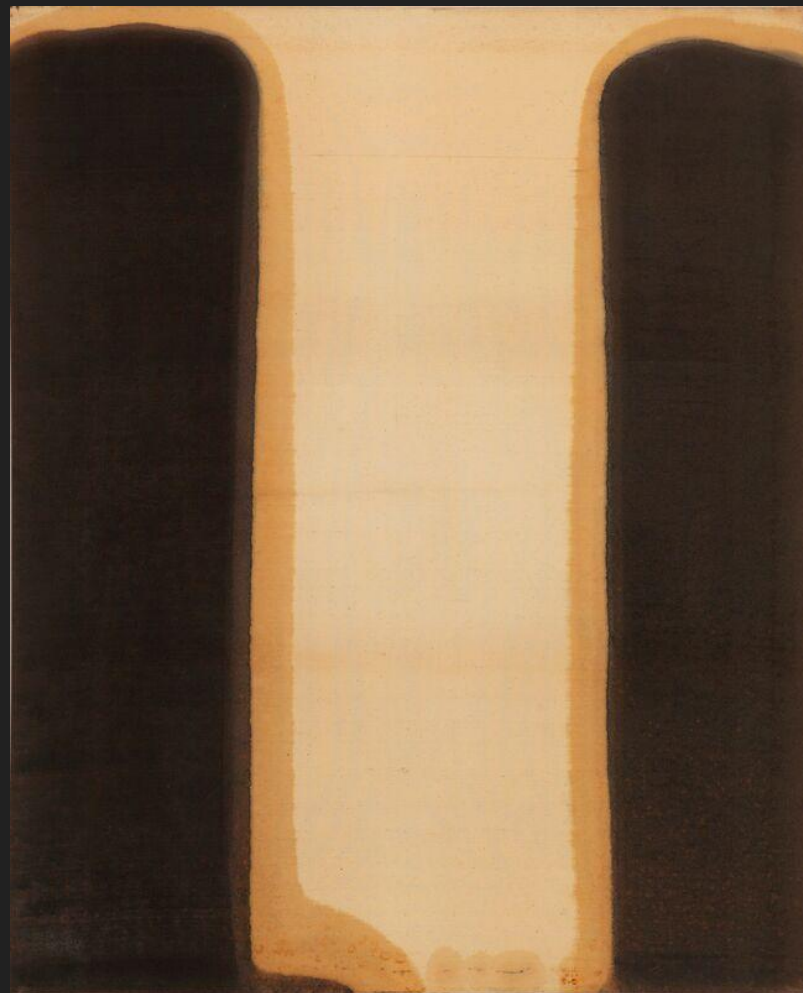
Yun Hyong-keun, *Umber-Blue*, 1978
oil on cotton
175.5 x 132.3 cm
PKM Gallery



Burnt Umber



Ultramarine Blue



Yun Hyong-keun, *Drawing*, 1972
Oil on *Hanji*
49 x 33 cm
PKM Gallery



Nam June Paik

백남준 (1932-2006)

Born in Seoul

Trained growing up as a classical pianist

Fled Korea during Korean War to Hong Kong, then to Japan

Graduated 1956 from University of Tokyo, degree in aesthetics

germany till 1961, tokyo till 1963

1962- Fluxus

1964 in New York, 1984 back to Korea



Nam June Paik, *Tv Garden*, 1974/2000
Video installation, color TVs and live plants
Guggenheim Museum, NY

NAM JUNE PAIK



SF MO
MA



Nam June Paik
TV Buddha
1974/2017
closed-circuit video installation
with wooden sculpture,
monitor and video camera,
Video, single channel, 4:3
format, live feed, dimensions
variable
SF MoMA

Minjung Art Movement

민중미술 1980s-1990s (the people's art)

Dansaekhwa (non representative) → *hyeonjang misul* (art of the site, representative)

South Korea Democratization Movement

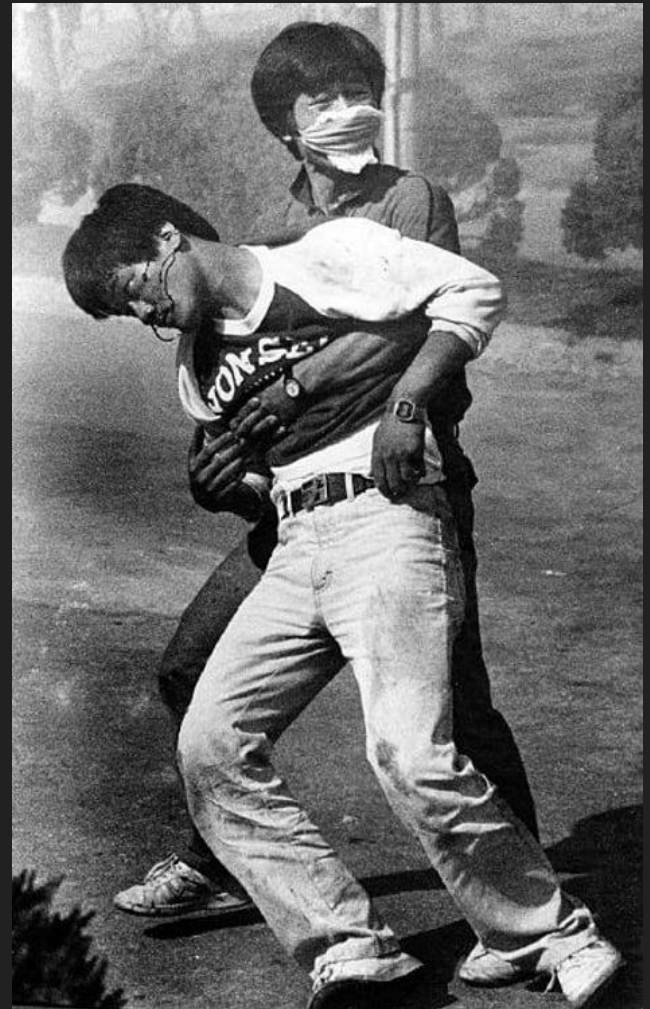
Gwangju Uprising, “Gwangju Massacre”

June 10-29th 1987 mass protests

Mural paintings, woodblock prints, banners, pamphlets, photography, etc.

Must be read with politics in mind!

Reuters News Agency, *photo of Lee Han-yeol, 1987*
Black and white film



80s-2000s Boom of Experimentation

Minjung Art & Post-Minjung Art- 80s-90s

1985 Women's Movement in Unity with the
National Democratic Minjung Movement

1988 Seoul Olympics

1990s Korean art exhibited abroad

1997 Asian Financial Crisis

1998 Busan Biennales

2000 MediaCity Seoul

Seoul Olympic Emblem
1988



Park Dae Sung

박대성 (b.1945)

Born in Cheongdo in North
Gyeongsang Province

During Korean war, lost his parents
and left hand

Marginalized and bullied for his
disabilities

Formal education ended after
middle school

Self taught himself art, mimicking
old ink painting and calligraphic
masters

1995 stayed in New York for 1 year





U/A, *Gathering of Government Officials*, L: 1551, R: 1565
Hanging scroll; Ink and color on silk
L: 129.5 x 67.9 cm, R: 46.4 x 55.9 cm
MET



Park Dae Sung, *Namsan in Gyeongju*, 2017
Ink on Hanji paper
176.5 x 159 cm
Artist's personal collection



Park Dae Sung, *Snow at Bulgak Temple*, 1996

Ink on Hanji paper

291.5 x 1,084 cm

Solgeo Art Museum

Suh Do Ho

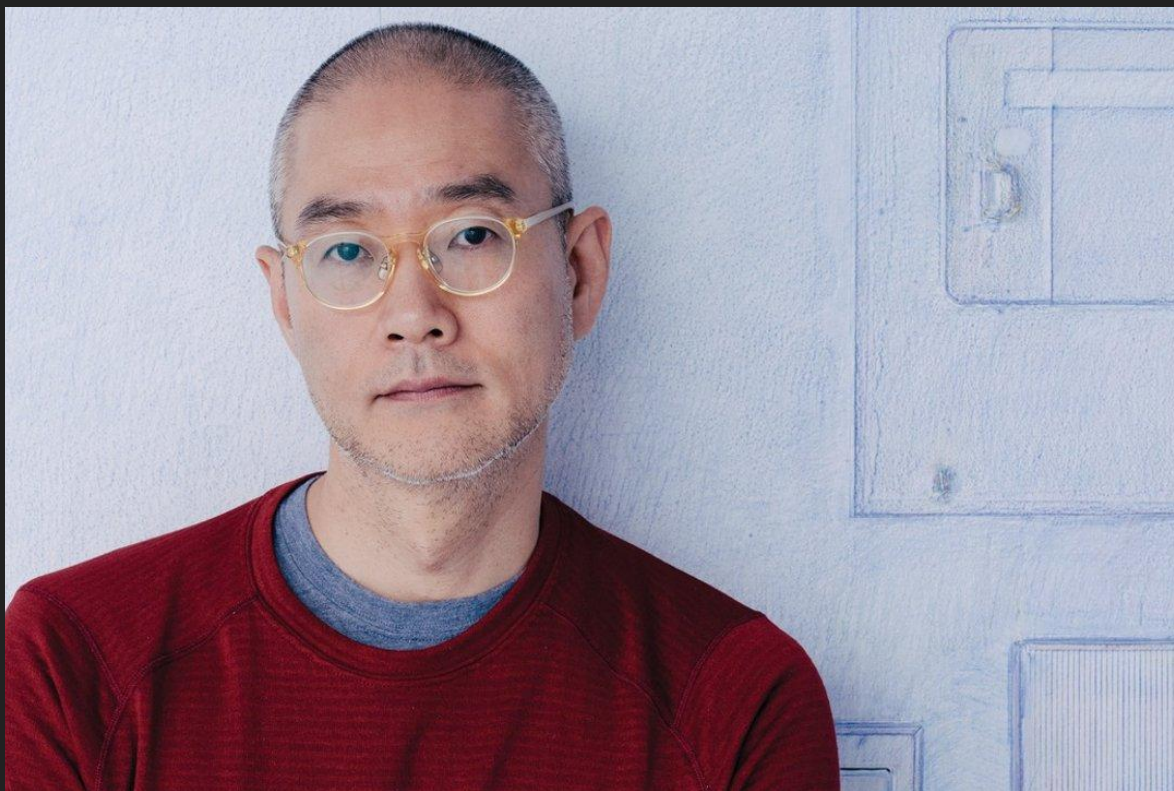
서도호 (b.1962)

Born in Seoul to family of famous artists

BFA and MFA in traditional Korean painting at Seoul National University

1991 moved to US to continue art education at Rhode Island School of Design and Yale University

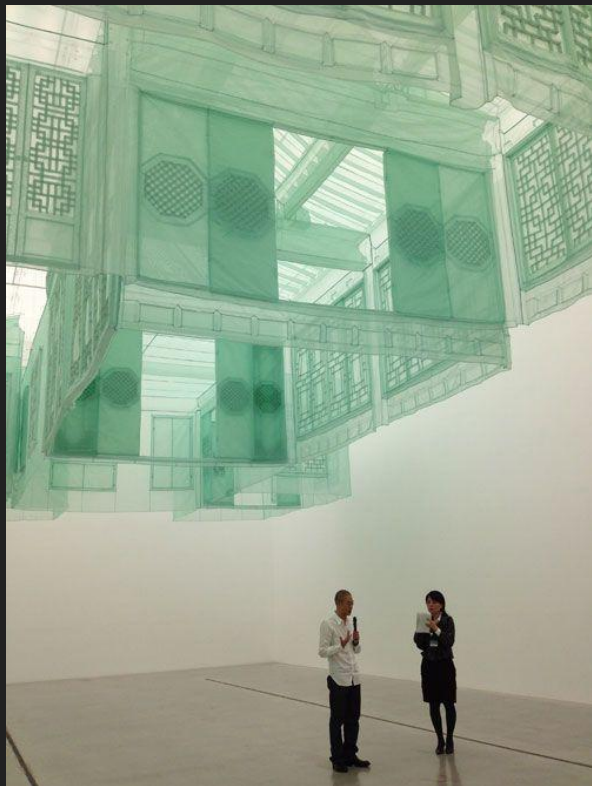
Lived in multiple locations across the United States, Europe, and Asia



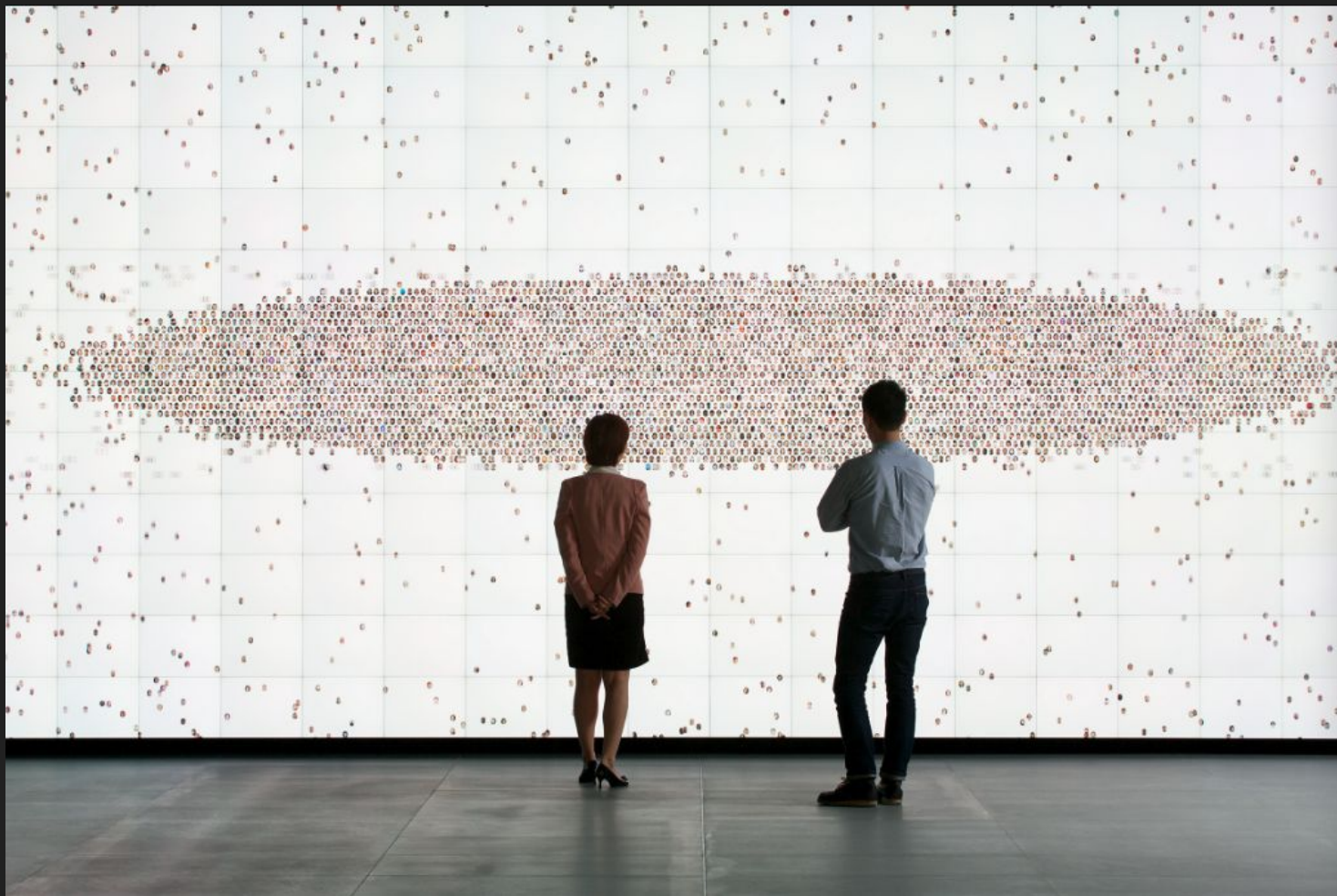


Suh Do Ho,
*Seoul Home/L.A. Home/New
York Home/Baltimore
Home/London Home/Seattle
Home,*
1999,
Unjoza fabric and steel
wiring,
dimensions vary

**“...Not really about
recreating the
physical space. It
was more about
transporting the
memory of the space.
So it’s a kind of
intangible quality.”**



Suh Do Ho,
Seoul Home/L.A. Home/New York Home/Baltimore Home/London Home/Seattle Home
1999
Unjoza fabric and steel wiring,
dimensions vary



Suh Do Ho,
Who Am We?,
2013,
digital installation on
LED screens
Hyundai Motor Group
Human Resource
Department

Park Chan-kyong

박찬경 (b.1965)

Born in Seoul

**BFA Seoul National University in
1988**

**MFA the California Institute of
the Arts in 1995.**

Grew up in authoritarian Korea

Multi-Media artist

Focuses on modernization

Nihilistic, Pessimistic





Park Chan-kyong
Citizen's Forest
2016
26 min 32 sec
black and white three channel video

“Citizen’s Forest serves as a contemporary platform conjuring the interests shared by these works with regard to historical trauma and ‘Asian Gothic’ imagination.”

- **What is ‘Asian Gothic’?**
- **What is Historical Trauma?**
- **What is Orientalism?**

“Traditional-Real”

one is “to see tradition as a sign, as a form, as given culture, as something that cannot [be] fully understood. It exists with you...a palace to escape from orientalism or play with orientalism. To make orientalism flexible and not be cold about tradition”

...Traditions, no matter how filthy, are good. I pass / Kwanghwamun, recall the mud there used to be by the wall, / And remember how women heated cauldrons of lye / And did their washing by in-hwan's hut in the stream bed, / Filled in now, seeing those grim times as a kind of paradise.

Since encountering Mrs. Bishop, it is not so hard for me / To put up with Korea, rotten country though it is. / Rather, i am awed by it. History no matter how filthy, is good. / Mud, no matter how filthy is good. / When i have memories ringing more resonant than a / Brass rice-bowl, humanity grows eternal and love likewise.

...all reactions / Are good, in order to set foot on this land. -comparing / The underwater beams of the third han river bridge with the huge roots i am putting down in my land, / They are merely the fluff on a moths back, compared / With the huge roots i am putting down in my land. / Compared with those colossal roots that even i cannot imagine, / Suggestive of mammoths in horror movies, / With black boughs unable to entertain magpies or crows [...]

-Colossal Roots 1964 by Kim Soo-Young.

Lee Dongi

이동이 (b.1967)

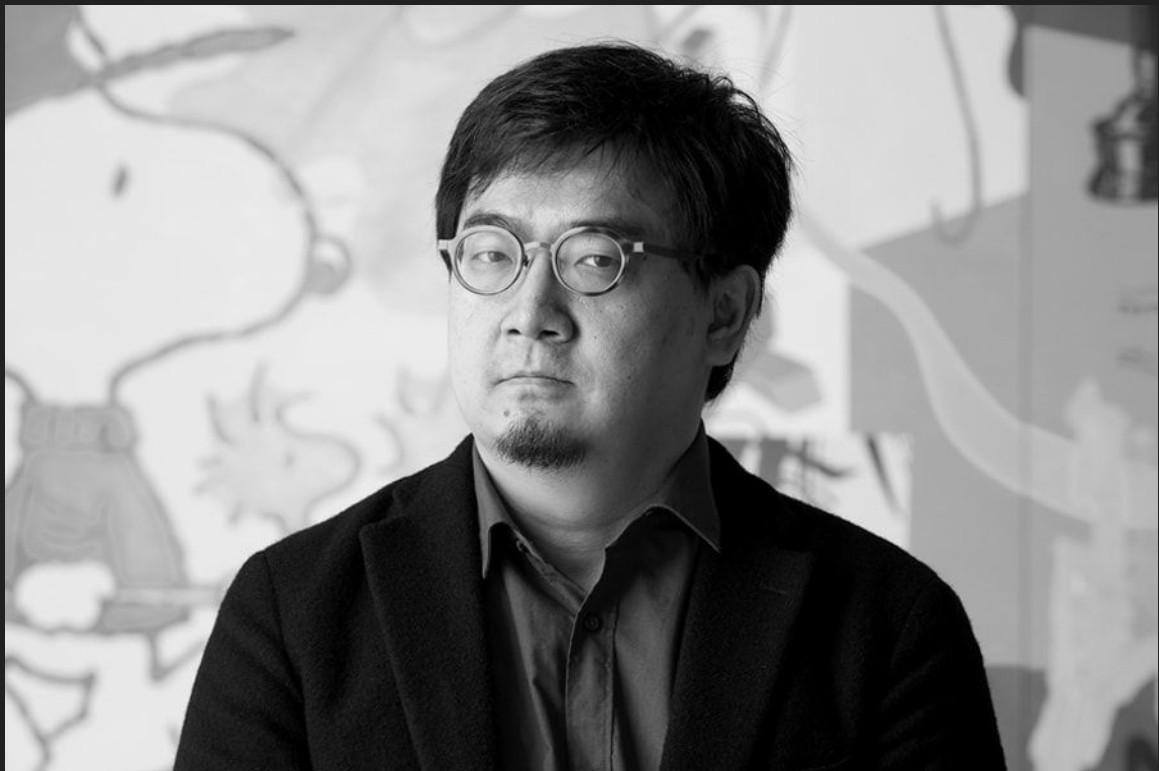
Born in Seoul

**BFA and MFA from Hongik
University in Seoul, Korea, in
1990 and 1995**

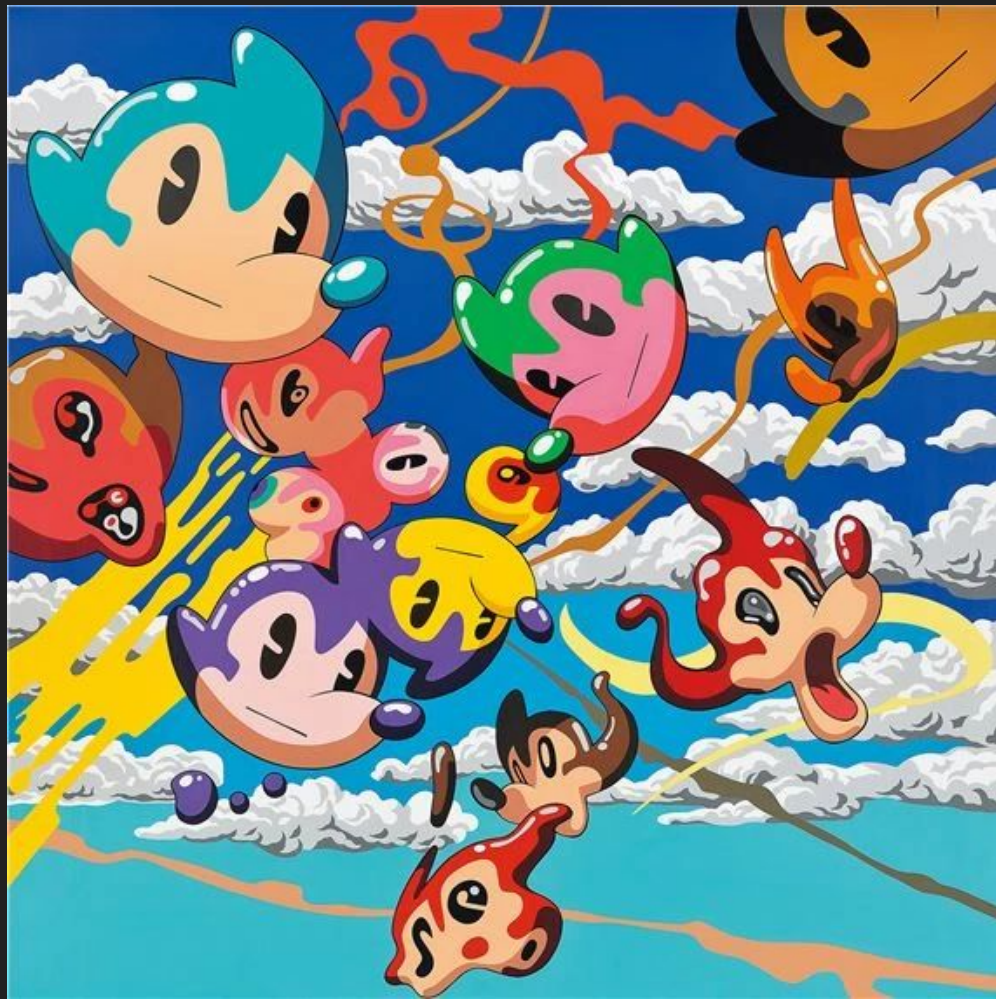
**First generation of Korean Pop
artists**

Comments on Globalization

Atomus



Lee Dongi
Bubbles
2008
acrylic on canvas
120 x 120 cm
Private Collection





Mickey Mouse



Astro Boy





Lee Dongi, *Staring Woman*, 2013, acrylic on canvas, 90 x 160 cm

Minjung Kim

김민정 (b.1962)

Born in Gwangju

Artistic training in early childhood

1980-1985- BA and MA in painting Hongik University in Seoul

Divorce

1991-BA Brera Academy of Fine Art in Milan, Italy

Hybridity

Artistic Method



Minjung Kim
The Room
2005
mixed media on mulberry Hanji
paper
210 x 149 cm



Minjung Kim

2023

Ink on mulberry Hanji paper

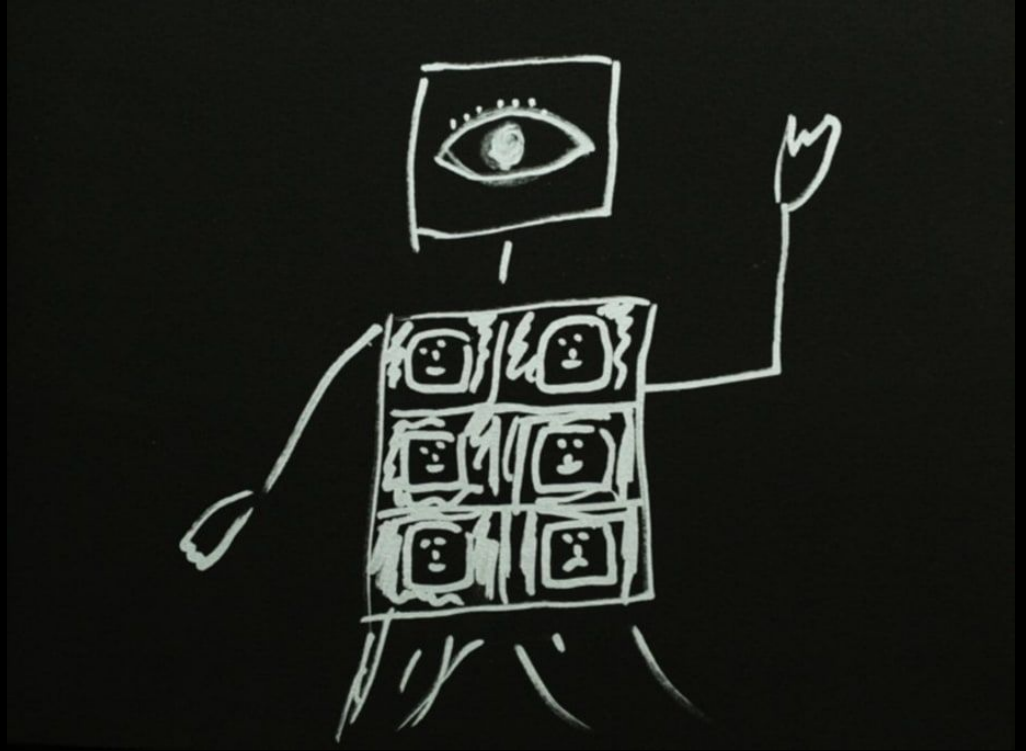
27 x 39 cm



Minjung Kim
Blue Mountain
2023
Ink on mulberry Hanji paper
27 x 39 cm



**Thank
You**



Nam June Paik, *Untitled (Drawing)*, 1990-1999, 26 x 33.5 cm, Hakgojae Gallery