

Venice Art Biennale 2015

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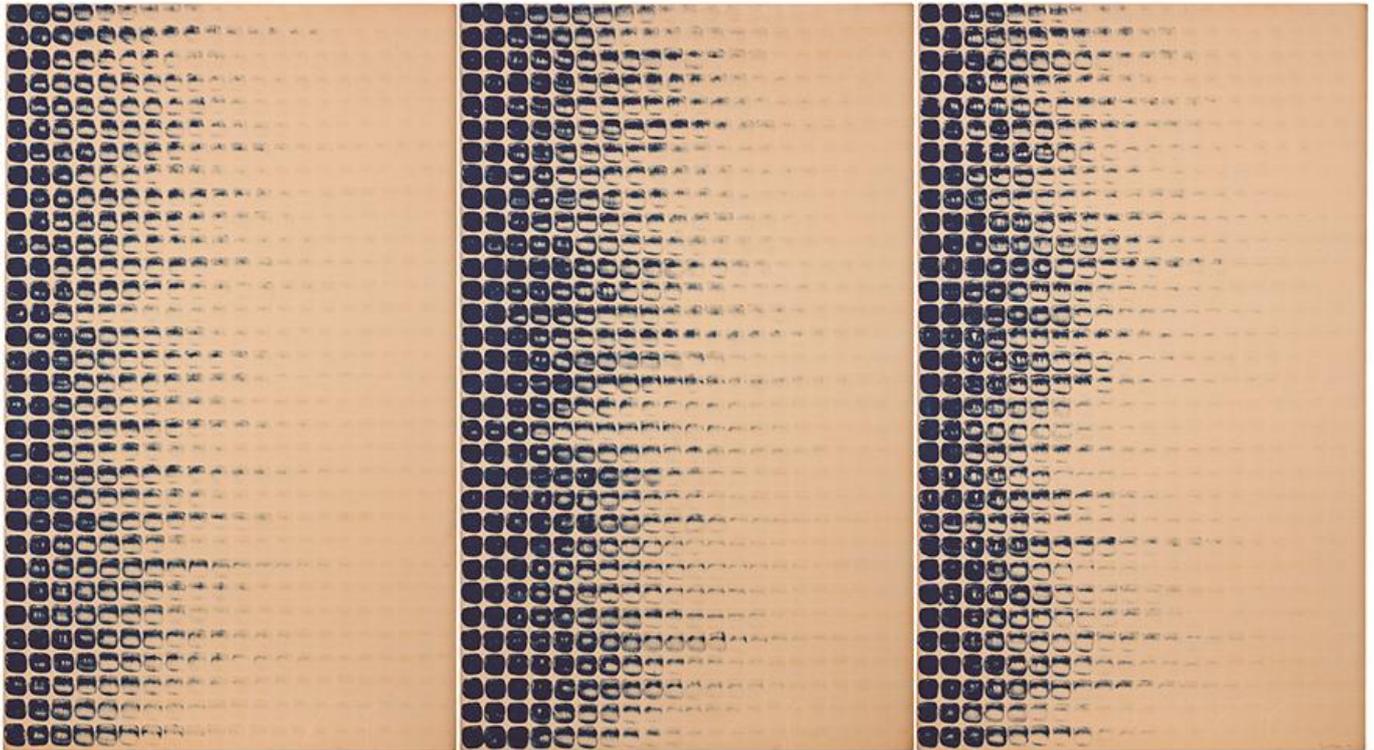
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Dansaekhwa

Palazzo Contarini-Polignac

Curated by **Yongwoo Lee** and organized by the **Boghossian Foundation** together with **Kukje Gallery**, Seoul and **Tina Kim Gallery**, New York the show present a site-specific new work by **Lee Ufan**.

A seminal art historical movement in post-war Korea, **Dansaekhwa** is loosely related to the Western monochrome tradition and is sometimes translated as "the school of white."

Dansaekhwa artists have a unique philosophy but many overlapping concerns uniting their work. These include a strong aesthetic ideal focused on the unity between artist and nature as well as a very refined approach to mark making. Many of these points of reference are rooted in traditional Taoist and Buddhist ideas. This emphasis on native cultural idioms was

politicized during the 20th century when post-war Korean identity was in a state of radical flux. It is in these tumultuous times that Dansaekhwa evolved and helped shape modern Korean art history. While specifically rooted in a Korean context, Dansaekhwa must be seen as having important formal and conceptual links to parallel movements in Japan and the West including Gutai, Mono-ha and Abstract Expressionism.

The exhibition will showcase the works of key masters who defined Dansaekhwa's development in the 1970s, providing an essential conceptual framework to appreciate this important movement. A subject of renewed interest in both Korea and internationally, this is a timely exhibition that explores a group of artists whose exquisitely beautiful and politically engaged work continues to have a profound influence on contemporary art. The participating artists are **Chung Chang-Sup, Chung Sang-Hwa, Ha Chong-Hyun, KIM Whanki, Kwon Young-Woo, Lee Ufan and Park Seo-Bo.**

In order to set the stage for many of the predominant themes that came to be associated with Dansaekhwa, including its emphasis on monochromatic compositions and innovative use of materials, Yongwoo Lee has included a major group of works from the 1960s by the artist KIM Whanki. Less known outside of Korea, this is an historic opportunity to see KIM's role as a foundational member in the post-war Korean art scene whose work and ideas contributed to the advance of Dansaekhwa.

The exhibition will occupy all three floors of Palazzo Contarini-Polignac. The ground floor will be devoted to new, commissioned sculptural work by **Lee Ufan**. One of the founders of both the **Mono-ha** movement and **Dansaekhwa**, **Lee Ufan's** intense and silent sculptural forms will frame a confrontation between two materials: steel plates and natural stones.

On the second floor, works by **KIM Whanki** will set the stage for **Yongwoo's** curated Dansaekhwa exhibition that will occupy both the second and third floors. In addition, an important academic conference focused on Dansaekhwa and recorded in January 2015 will be shown to engage the public and give necessary historical insight into its beginnings, as well as to frame some of the ongoing debates regarding its influence. Coupled with a range of related archival materials, scholarship, and ephemera, the exhibition will be the first rigorous academic presentation of Dansaekhwa to be held outside of Korea and will be a landmark moment in its introduction to the international community.

Organised by: The Boghossian Foundation, Kukje Gallery, Seoul and Tina Kim Gallery, New York

Curator: Yongwoo Lee Special event: May 7, 7pm, opening

Artists:

**Chung Chang Sup Chung Sang Hwa Ha Chong Hyun KIM Whanki Kwon Young Woo
Lee Ufan Park Seo Bo**

Open:Thursday, 07 May 2015

Close:Saturday, 15 August 2015

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Opening hour:Tue – Sat, 10am – 6pm

Closing day:Sun

Transport:San Tomà

Photo credits:1. Lee Ufan, From Point, 1977; 2. Chung Sang-Hwa, Untitled, 1996. Courtesy of the artists and The Boghossian Foundation, Kukje Gallery and Tina Kim Gallery.

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