Yeesookyung
Biography

Yeesookyung was born in 1963, and currently lives and works in Seoul, Korea. Working across video, installation, sculpture, drawing, the interdisciplinary artist emerged on the art scene in the 1990s, as part of a wave of young Korean artists experimenting with a wide range of mediums to express personal experiences in a rapidly modernizing Korea.

Best known for her acclaimed *Translated Vase* series, the project began with the remnants of disposed vases by a master Korean potter. The artist took the fragments of broken ceramic shards, seaming them together with epoxy and later hand-painting them with 24-carat gold leaf, resulting in simultaneously voluptuous yet fragile forms. Yeesookyung's amalgamation of Korean historical canon with elements of Western modernity is entirely idiosyncratic. Through this cycle of destruction and re-creation within each crevice of every porcelain fragment, Yeesookyung embeds the collective identity of Korean history and culture, re-interpreting the final piece for a wider western audience.

Solo exhibitions

2023

2023 - Translated Vase, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, France

2020

2020 - I am not the only one but many, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

2019

2019 - Whisper only to you, Madre - Museo d'arte contemporanea Donnaregina e Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte, Napoli, I

2016

2016 - Yeesookyung: Translated Vase, Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, USA

2015

2015 - When I Become You, Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, ROK
2015 - When I Become You, Yeesookyung in Taipei, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, TW
2015 - Saint Breeders, Atelier Hermès, Seoul, ROK
2015 - Yeesookyung: Contemporary Korean Sculpture, Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, USA

2014

2014 - The Meaning of Time, Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
2014 - Take Me Home Country Roads, Space Willing N Dealing, Seoul, ROK

2013

2013 - Flame, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore, SGP

2012

2012 - Yeesookyung, Sindoh Art Gallery, Seoul, ROK

2011

2011 - Yeesookyung, Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, B

2010

2010 - Jung Marie's Jeongga, Yeesookyung's Devotion, Arko Art Center, Seoul, ROK

2009

2009 - Yee Sookyung im Schloß Oranienbaum, Museum Schloß Oranienbaum, Dessau, D
2009 - Yeesookyung, Thomas Cohn Gallery, São Paolo, BR
2009 - Yeesookyung, Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, J

Group exhibitions

2025

2025 - Half a Life. Forms of Work in Art and History, Museum unter Tage, Bochum, D

2023

2023 - Portable Temple, Musée Cernuschi, Paris, F
2023 - Hidden Prophecy, curated by Yeesookyung, MASSIMODECARLO, VSpace, I

2022

2022 - Frieze Seoul, COEX, Seoul, Korea
2022 - Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention Center, Hong Kong, PRC

2021

2021 - Encounters Between Korean Art and Literature in the Modern Age, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Deoksugung, Seoul, ROK

2020

2020 - Non Sculpture: Light or Flexible, Yongji Park, Gyeongsangnam-do, ROK

2019

2019 - Fragments of form, Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong, HK
2019 - Being Human: an exhibition of modern sculpture, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol, UK
2019 - Aspect of Korean Modern Sculpture, Seosomun Shrine History Museum, Seoul, ROK
2019 - To the Moon with Snoopy, Lotte Museum of Art, Seoul, ROK
2019 - 50/50, Alternative Space Loop, Multiplex Art Salon, Seoul, ROK
2019 - FRAGMENTS OF FORM, Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong, PRC

2018

2018 - Highlight K-Art, Culture-ICT Pavilion, PyeongChang Olympic Plaza, ROK
2018 - Far East Film Festival of Udine, Casa Cavazzini, Udine, I
2018 - Exhibition Paradoxa. Art from Middle Korea, Casa Cavazzini, Udine, I
2018 - The Book of Disquiet, Gyeongnam Art Museum, Changwon, ROK

2017

2017 - Real DMZ, DMZ Peace and Culture Square, Cheorwon-gun, ROK
2017 - Ghost, Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, ROK
2017 - VIVA ARTE VIVA, 57th Venice Biennale, Venezia, I

2016

2016 - Art from Elsewhere, Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, UK
2016 - CERAMIX: Art and Ceramics from Rodin to Schütte, Cité de la Céramique, Sèvres, F
2016 - Motions, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore, SGP
2016 - Art from Elsewhere, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and Arnolfini, Bristol, UK
2016 - Earth, Fire, Soul -Masterpieces of Korean Ceramics, Salon d'Honneur at the Grand Palais, Paris, F
2016 - Rivers-The Way of Living in Transition / Asia Contemporary Art Links, Gallery 1 at Gwangju Biennale Hall, Gwangju, ROK
2016 - When Words Fail, HITE Collection, Seoul, ROK
2016 - Born in Flames: Korean Ceramics from the National Museum of Korea, The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, RUS

2016 - MMCA Gwacheon, 30 Years 1986-2016: As the Moon Waxes and Wanes, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, ROK
2016 - Pungryunamdo Art Project, Haengcheon Museum, Haenam, ROK

2015

2015 - CERAMIX: Art and Ceramics from Rodin to Schütte, Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, NL
2015 - Water and Land - Niigata Art Festival, Closed school in Niigata, Niigata, J
2015 - Paradox of Place: Contemporary Korean Art, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Seattle, USA
2015 - [ana] please keep your eyes closed for a moment, Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, UAE
2015 - Art and the Measure of Liberty, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York, USA
2015 - Contemporary Art, Infiltrated into a Museum, Gyeonggi Provincial Museum, Youngin-si, ROK
2015 - Accidental Encounter, Buk Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, ROK
2015 - Rivers-The Way of Living in Transition, PIER-2 Art Center, Kaohsiung, TW
2015 - HaengChon Art Project, Daeheung Buddist Museum, Baekryunsa, Gangjin, ROK
2015 - Blessed Land, Yang Pyeong Art Center, Yang Pyeong, ROK
2015 - Memories of artistic soul, Cheonan Arts Center Museum, Cheonan, ROK
2015 - My Blue China, Fondation d'entreprise Bernardaud, Limoges, F
2015 - Reshaping Tradition: Contemporary Ceramics from East Asia, USC Pacific Asian Museum, Pasadena, USA
2015 - Art from Elsewhere, Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK

2014

2014 - Beyond and Between, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, ROK
2014 - Art from Elsewhere, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, UK
2014 - Jakarta Contemporary Ceramics Biennale, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, RI
2014 - Time of Resonance, Jeju Museum of Art, Jejudo, ROK
2014 - From Corea to Korea, Fine Art Gallery Art Link, Seoul, ROK
2014 - Dual Natures in Ceramics, SFO Museum, San Francisco, USA
2014 - K-P.O.P. – Korean Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, TW
2014 - Warmth, Culture Station 284, Seoul, ROK
2014 - Objectified: Sculpture Today, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

Bibliography

2020

Azzarello, Nina. "Interview with Korean artist Yeesookyung on emphasizing flaws with gold at Massimo De Carlo", *designboom*, October 2020.

Public Collections

Hong Kong

M+ Museum

Japan

Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, Echigo-Tsumari
Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka
YU-UN Obayashi Collection, Tokyo

South Korea

Acrovista, Seoul
Byucksan Corporation, Seoul
Gyeonggido Museum of Art, Ansan
Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul
National Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwacheon
POSCO Museum, Pohang
Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul
Times Square, Seoul

Spain

ARCO Collection, IFEMA, Madrid

Switzerland

Uli Sigg Collection

Ukraine

Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv

United Arab Emirates

Salama Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, Abu Dhabi

United Kingdom

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol
The British Museum, London

United States of America

LACMA - Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
Princeton University, New Jersey
Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago
Spencer Museum of Art, The University of Kansas, Lawrence