

MIKO VELDKAMP

Postcards from Home | November 4 – December 16, 2023

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

BB&M is pleased to present New York-based painter Miko Veldkamp's first solo exhibition in Asia. His work was first shown at BB&M in the spring of 2022, as part of Dream Life, a group show of young American painters organized by the internationally renowned curator Dan Cameron. Since then Veldkamp has continued to garner critical attention with an institutional solo exhibition at London's Southwark Park Galleries in the fall of 2022 and, most recently, a two-person show at Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York.

Veldkamp's work melds his Surinamese, Dutch, and New York past and present experiences together, drawing on elements both private and public, from art history, family photo albums, folklore, landscape, and nature. His dreamy, mesmerizing canvases depict psychological spaces imbued with colonial histories and conflicting yet intertwined cultural narratives exploring shifting notions of personal authenticity at the intersection of the North-South and East-West cultural axes.

In the present show, Veldkamp continues to delve into these subjects while exploring new patterns in his visual vocabulary, abstract and figurative as well as structural and textural. In these recent works, a translucent palette suffused with light, contrasted with darker tones achieved through thinly layered brushstrokes, gives expression to a rich expanse of dreams and reality, the interior self and the external world. The artist himself and members of his family often inhabit these scenes. The recurring figure on a bicycle is also another version of Veldkamp, tracing a fluid trajectory through present reality and a past recalled or imagined. Suspended in some liminal space, the figures in his work appear as both specific memories and surreal specters. Light and shadows, reflection and fragmentation, patterns both geometric and organic all combine to shuffle linear concepts of time and space, producing another kind of order and rhythm on the canvas.

The artist has spoken of his method as a kind of dive into memory and trauma. Deploying a candid, intimate visual language that conveys a sense of melancholy both deeply personal and distinctly contemporary, he has captured how collective memories permeate societies and cultures and how identity is performed and community is maintained within them.

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Born in 1982, **Miko Veldkamp** received a BFA from Willem de Kooning Academie, Rotterdam, and an MFA from Hunter College, New York. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include BB&M, Seoul (2023); Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York (2023); Long Story Short, New York (2023); Southwark Park Galleries, London (2022), and Workplace, London (2022). Group exhibitions include The Here and There, New York (2023); Workplace, Newcastle, UK (2023); Althuis Hofland, Amsterdam (2022); Workplace, London (2022); BB&M, Seoul (2022); Swivel Gallery x Regular Normal, New York (2021); among others. His work was recently selected to be featured in New American Paintings (2023).

EXHIBITION VIEW



Exhibition View, *Postcards from Home*, BB&M, Seoul, 2023. Works by Miko Veldkamp

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SELECTED WORKS



Recurring Dreams, 2023, Oil, acrylic and ink on canvas, 152.5 x 122 cm

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Koi Fish Pond, 2023, Oil, acrylic and ink on canvas, 152.5 x 122 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Club Tropical, 2023, Oil and acrylic on linen, 122 x 137 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Influence, 2023, Oil, acrylic and ink on canvas, 122 x 178 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Halfling, 2023, Oil and acrylic on linen, 101.5 x 152.5 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Wild Flowers, 2023, Oil, acrylic and ink on canvas, 76 x 122 cm



ABOUT THE GALLERY

Beginning in 2009 as an art consultancy, BB&M has been instrumental in the ascendance of some of the most acclaimed contemporary Korean artists now on the international stage, including Lee Bul, Minouk Lim, Park Chan-kyong, and Bae Young-whan. BB&M's current iteration as an independent gallery is a joint effort between James B. Lee (Founding Principal) and Si Young Hur (Principal), who brings decades of experience in the commercial sector as Director at Gallery Hyundai and PKM Gallery and as Partner at Gallery Baton. In her previous posts, Ms. Hur was responsible for organizing and overseeing exhibitions of such artists as Liam Gillick, Olafur Eliasson, Thomas Struth, Robert Rauschenberg, and Yun Hyong-keun, a key figure in *Dansaekhwa*.

BB&M inaugurated its gallery space in October 2021 with a solo exhibition of Lee Bul, widely recognized as the leading Korean artist of her generation. Encompassing over 2,500 square feet (233 square meters) of exhibition space over two levels, including a double-height space with a 17.5-foot (5.4 meters) ceiling, BB&M is located in the culturally storied district of Seongbuk-dong, in the vicinity of Gansong Art Museum, established in 1938 as the first private art museum in Korea.

In addition to Lee Bul, the gallery's roster includes such prominent, critically important Korean figures as Minouk Lim, Bae Young-whan, and Heecheon Kim, working across a range of genres and shaping contemporary Korean art in an international context. The gallery also represents younger international artists rising in recognition and spanning different visual cultures, among them Alex Dodge and Miko Veldkamp.

From the outset BB&M has also sought to introduce curatorial perspectives from outside the commercial sector to ensure its program is intellectually expansive, inviting, for instance, Dan Cameron, the former New Museum curator, to organize an exhibition. These efforts reflect the gallery's long-term mission of building an exhibition program that engages both critically and aesthetically with contemporary visual ideas.

ABOUT THE PRINCIPALS

James B. Lee, Founding Principal, brings decades of varied experience in the art world, as a writer for such international magazines as *ARTnews* (New York), *Flash Art International* (Milan), and *Art AsiaPacific* (Hong Kong); in institutions, as the Head of Exhibitions at Art Sonje Center, Seoul, and the Director of Exhibitions at the Gwangju Biennale Foundation; and in the commercial sector as Partner at PKM Gallery, Seoul. Mr. Lee was trained in finance at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, before earning a master's in writing from Columbia University, New York.

Si Young Hur, Principal, earned a BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Hong Ik University, Seoul, where she studied with major figures in the *Dansaekhwa* movement, notably Park Seo-bo. Ms. Hur went on to study art management at ICART, Paris, and embarked on a career in the commercial art world, first working at a Paris gallery that exhibited Lee Ufan. Upon returning to Seoul, she served as Director at Gallery Hyundai and subsequently at PKM Gallery.

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