

SUNROOM | FEBRUARY 4 - MARCH 11, 2023

Featuring Junghae Park, Sikyung Sung, Jieun Oh, Yun-young Jeong, Sujin Choi

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

SUNROOM, opening February 4 and on view until March 11, 2023, brings together five young Korean painters gaining increasing attention with their distinctively personal modes of visual expression. As with COLD PITCH, the 2022 group exhibition at BB&M, which similarly featured four young Korean artists, SUNROOM is conceived as a way to uncover the potential of noteworthy emerging talent and provide a platform for broader exposure. This exhibition focuses on new work by young artists dedicated to painting, a genre perennially thought to be in crisis yet enduring in its aesthetic force. For this show, the five artists—Junghae Park, Sikyung Sung, Jieun Oh, Yun-young Jeong, and Sujin Choi—respond to the theme of SUNROOM as a visual metaphor and concept to create works that engage with ideas of abstraction, the interplay of shadow and light, as well as figurative styles that veer from the conventions of naturalism toward a space of imagination and contemplation.

Junghae Park has emerged as one of the most closely followed young Korean painters, participating in such notable exhibitions as *Back to square one* (SeMA Bunker, Seoul, 2022), *Layers and Spaces* (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, 2017). She takes elements derived from ordinary objects such as ribbons and colored paper to devise a set of personal visual symbols which are deployed to create colorful geometric abstractions that retain traces of their figurative origins. Since his first solo show *Exit, Exit* (Art Space HYEONG / Shift, Seoul, 2019), Sikyung Sung continues to explore a distinctive visual language arising from the movement of the brush, by turns aleatory and improvisational as well as intentional. For this show he has created works animated by the interplay of regular patterns with intuitive lines and strokes, inspired by the notion of light and shadow within the structure of a glass sunroom.

Where Park and Sung delve into the fundamental properties of painting, Sujin Choi and Jieun Oh portray moments of everyday life that demonstrate painting's capacity to convey inner states through ordinary objects and scenes. Since earning significant recognition starting in her mid-twenties, Sujin Choi has been included in notable exhibitions such as *Humorland & Co.* (Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, 2021), and *The Adventure of Korean Contemporary Painting: I Will Go All By Myself* (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Cheongju, 2019). Though based on photographs from her walks and travels, Choi's painted scenes assume the quality of fables, fusing reality, memory, and imagination. Her works for this exhibition shows sunlit interiors where the mundane blurs into the fantastical, arousing a synesthetic response transcending the painted surface. By comparison, Jieun Oh's paintings appears as a record of some specific experienced reality. In recent exhibitions such as *Anti-Romance* (Eulji Arts Center, Seoul, 2022) and *Illegible Map*, Art Space 3 (Seoul), Oh has shown figurative works that imbue the grammar of traditional still life with a distinctly personal vocabulary of expressionistic palette and objects laden with private significance.

Unusual among her cohort, Yun-young Jeong was initially trained in traditional Buddhist painting. This is reflected in her method, which is infused with the techniques and materials of Eastern painting, though distinctly contemporary in her sensibility. On canvases layered with fragments of silk fabric, she conveys the cyclical nature of life in translucent washes and soft stains of vibrant colors evocative of botanical and other proliferating organic forms. Jeong's recent exhibitions include *Incompleted Parts* (Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwangju-si, Korea, 2021), and *Layered Shadow* (Park Soo Keun Museum of Art, Yanggu, Korea, 2021).

EXHIBITION VIEW



Exhibition View, SUNROOM, BB&M, Seoul, 2023. Works by Sikyung Sung(left) and Junghae Park (center and right)

EXHIBITION VIEW



Exhibition View, SUNROOM, BB&M, Seoul, 2023. Works by Jieun Oh

EXHIBITION VIEW



Exhibition View, SUNROOM, BB&M, Seoul, 2023. Works by Yun-young Jeong

EXHIBITION VIEW



Exhibition View, SUNROOM, BB&M, Seoul, 2023. Works by Sujin Choi

SELECTED WORKS



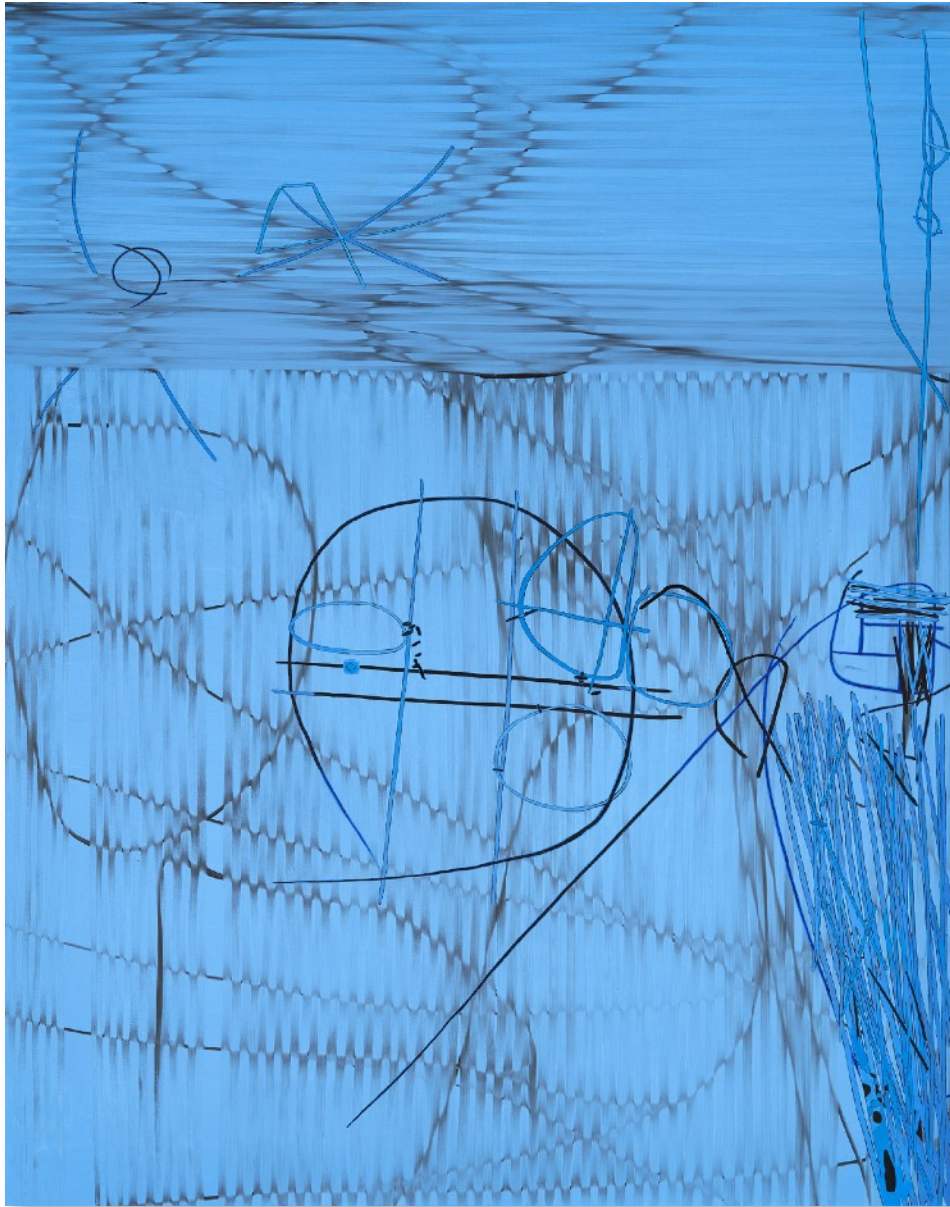
Junghae Park, *Rotary 808*, 2022-2023, Acrylic on linen(mounted on wood panel), 166 x 124 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Junghae Park, *Pebble*, 2022-2023, Acrylic on linen(mounted on wood panel), 145.5 x 112 cm

SELECTED WORKS



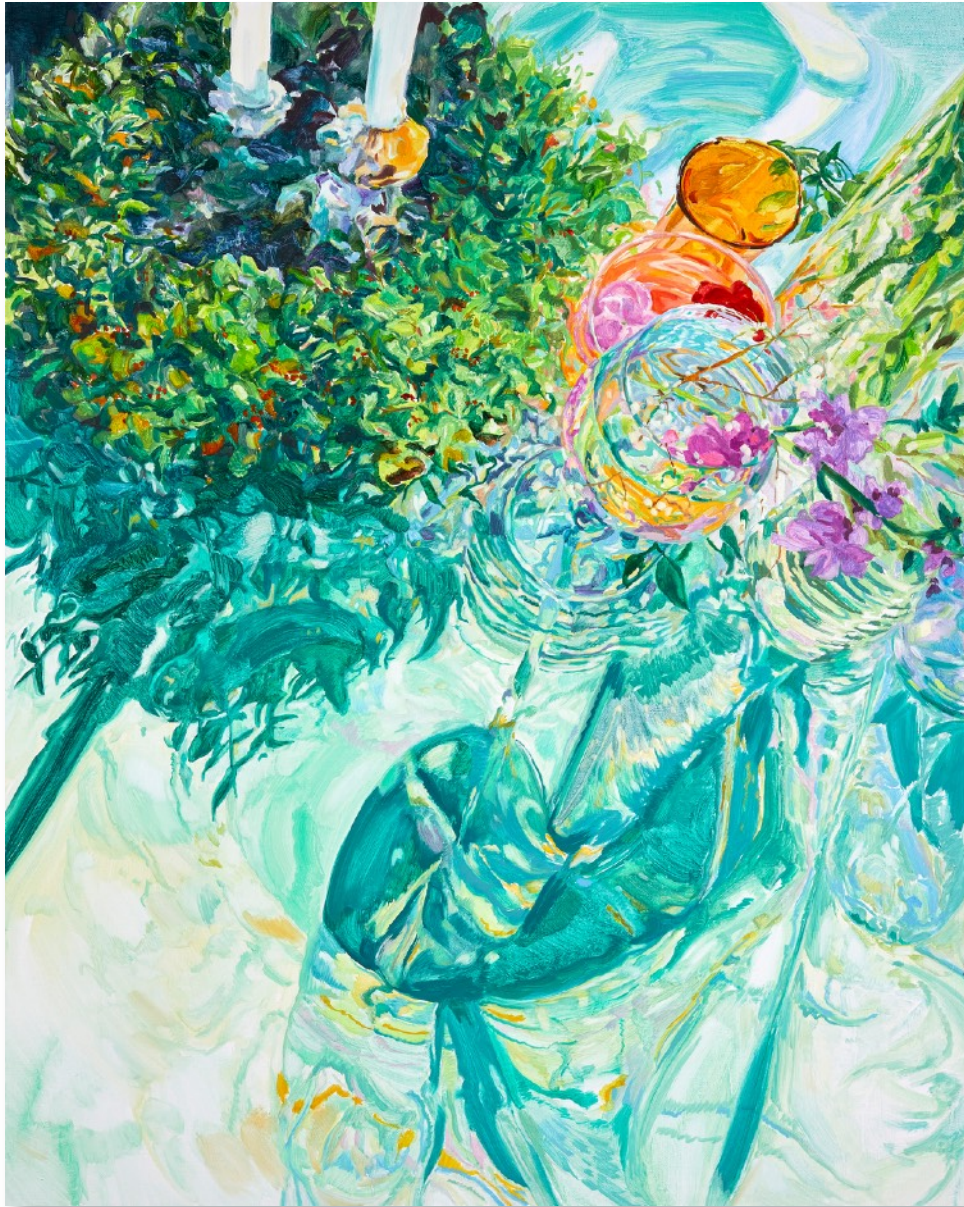
Sikyung Sung, One-Two, 2022, Oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Sikyung Sung, *Tug of War*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm

SELECTED WORKS



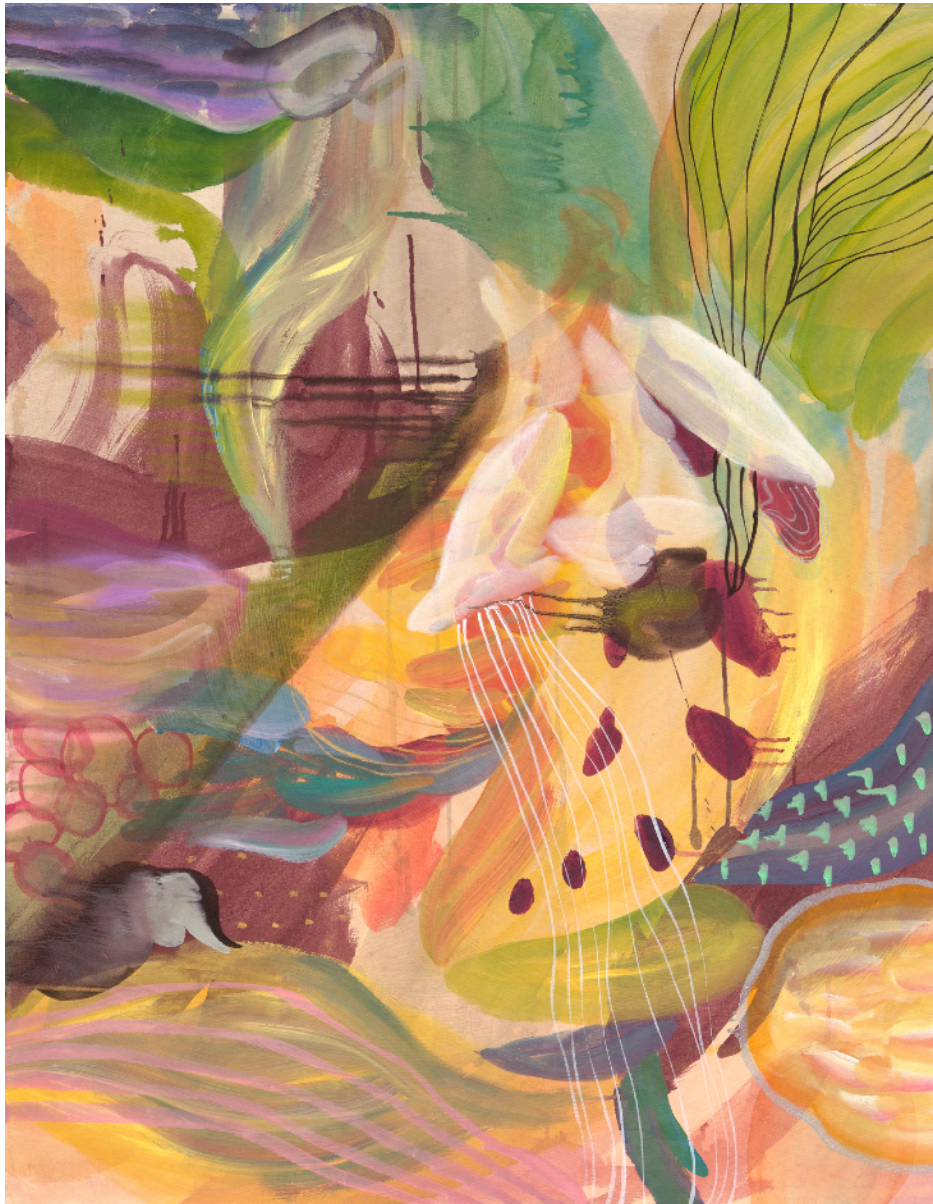
Jieun Oh, *Harmless Days*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 90.9 x 72.7 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Jieun Oh, *A taste of honey*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 91 x 116.8 cm

SELECTED WORKS



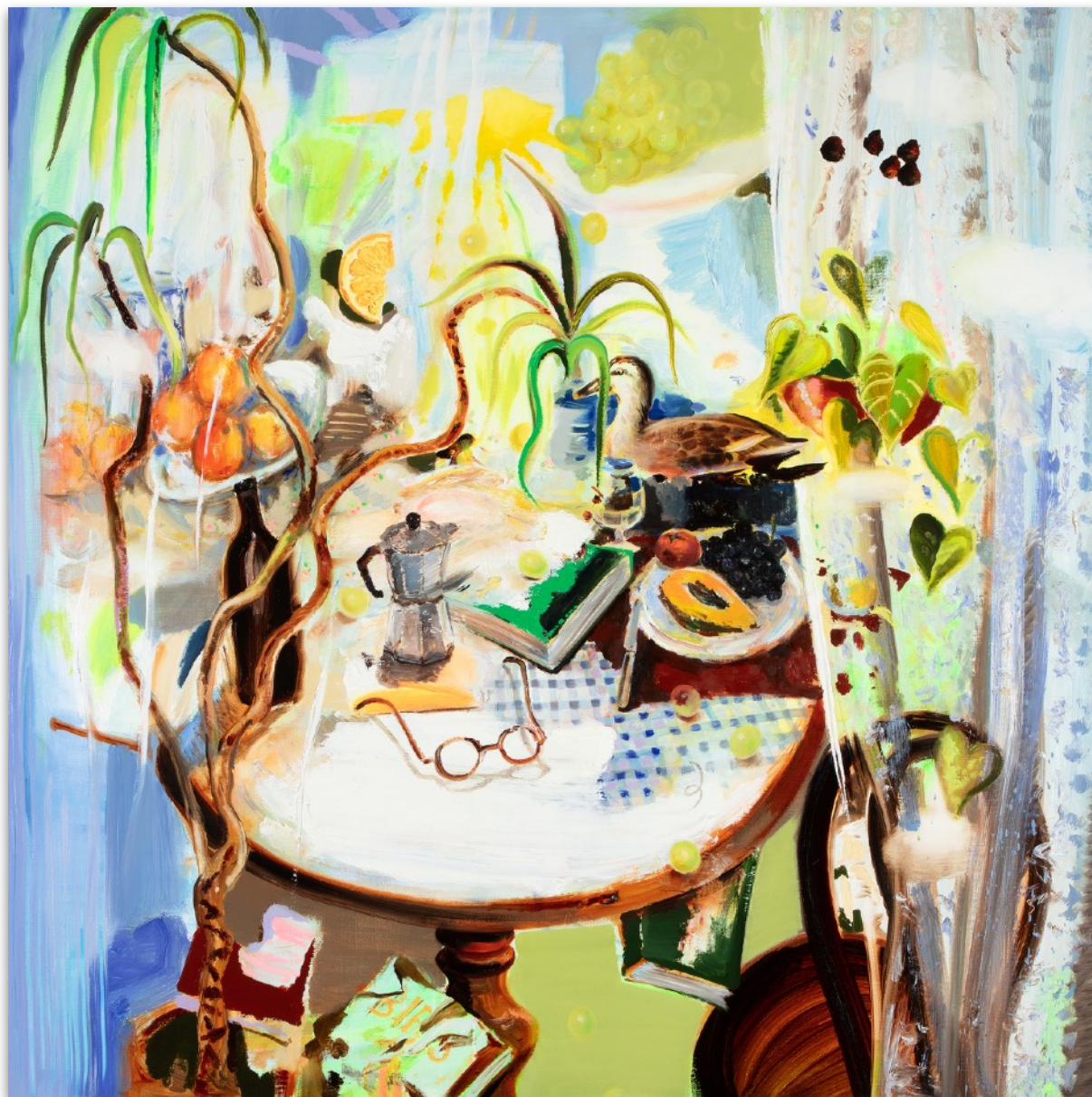
Yun-young Jeong, *Absorbing Organs*, 2022, Color on silk layered canvas, 91 x 116.8 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Yun-young Jeong, *One Strange Lump*, 2022, Color on silk layered canvas, 97 x 97 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Sujin Choi, *Morning Table*, 2023, Oil on canvas, 130.3 x 130.3 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Sujin Choi, *Orange Colored Time*, 2023, Oil on canvas, 116.8 x 91 cm

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Junghae Park (b. 1989) received a BFA from Hongik University. Park has participated in group exhibitions *Back to square one* (SeMA Bunker, Seoul, 2022), *Layers and Spaces* (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, 2021), *Doosan Art Lab 2021*, (Doosan Gallery, Seoul, 2021), and *Crossing Plane: Unit, Layer, Nostalgia* (Ilmin Museum of Art, Seoul, 2015). Her solo exhibitions include *Mellow Melody* (Whistle, Seoul, 2021), *Xagenexx* (Unground 2, Seoul, 2017), and *Dear Drops* (Archive Bomm, Seoul, 2015). Her work is in the collection of Seoul Museum of Art (Seoul).

Sikyung Sung (b. 1991) received a BFA from Hongik University and MFA from the Seoul National University of Science and Technology. Sung recently had a solo exhibition *Exit Exit* at Art Space HYEONG / Shift (Seoul, 2019). He has been included in group exhibitions *Two Tu*, (P21, Seoul and Whistle, Seoul, 2022), *Light and Crystalline* (ONE AND J Gallery, Seoul, 2020), and *Your Life is Abstract* (ART SPACE 3, Seoul, 2019)

Jieun Oh (b. 1990) holds a MFA from Kookmin University. Solo shows include *Essential Love*, Drawing Room (Seoul), *Hello to your Glass*, Gallery Grida (Seoul), and *I Want to Dance Always*, Art Space Seoro (Seoul). Oh has been participated in group exhibitions *Anti-Romance*, Eulji Arts Center (Seoul), *Today, Moment, Emotion*, Artside Gallery, (Seoul) and *Illegible Map*, Art Space 3 (Seoul).

Yun-young Jeong (b. 1987) received a BFA from Dongguk University, an MFA and DFA from Kookmin University. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Incompleted Parts* (Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwangju-si, Korea, 2021), *Opaque Superposition* (Gallery Doll, Seoul, 2021) and *Layered Shadow* (Park Soo Keun Museum of Art, Yanggu, Korea, 2021). She has participated in group exhibitions including *Neighbors and Strangers* (Buk-Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, 2016), and *BUDDHAS* (Bulil Gallery, Seoul, 2016). Her works are held by Park Sook Keun Museum of Art (Yanggu) and Youngeun Museum of Contemporary art (Gwangju-si, Korea)

Sujin Choi (b. 1986) received a BFA and an MFA from Chung-Ang University. Choi's solo shows include *Rainbow Letter* (Artemia Space, Hainan, China, 2022). *Fruity Buttercream* (AIT, Seoul, 2021), and *Studio Rainbow Breath* (Hapjungjigu, Seoul, 2017). She was part of group exhibitions *Humorland & Co.* (Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, 2021), *The World We Made* (Blue Square NEMO, Seoul, 2020), and *The Adventure of Korean Contemporary Painting: I Will Go All By Myself* (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Cheongju, 2019). Her works are in the collection of Artemia Foundation (Beijing), Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art (Ansan, Korea), and Posco Art Museum (Seoul).

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 Artsonje 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 PKM Gallery and subsequently as Partner at Gallery Baton.

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