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FORMING NATURE: DANSAEKHWA KOREAN ABSTRACT ART



Park Seo-Bo (b. 1931)
Écriture No. 41-75
Oil and pencil on canvas
130 x 162 cm. (51 ¼ x 63 ¾ in.)
Painted in 1975

A DOUBLE-VENUE SELLING EXHIBITION FEATURING WORKS BY 8 KOREAN MASTERS

At Christie's **New York** from 8 to 23 October & **Hong Kong** from 6 November to 4 December 2015

Hong Kong / New York – Christie's announces ***Forming Nature: Dansaekhwa Korean Abstract Art***, a curated selling exhibition dedicated to Korean modern abstract art and the *Dansaekhwa* (Korean for 'monochrome') movement to be presented this autumn in New York and Hong Kong, featuring an exceptional selection of approximately 60 works created by eight Korean masters. **The first comprehensive group exhibition** ever to be dedicated to this type of art in **New York**, Christie's will showcase 33 paintings at their Rockefeller Center West Galleries from 8 to 23 October. From 6 November to 4 December, 24 different works by the same artists, will be on view at Christie's **Hong Kong** headquarters.

The title of the exhibition expresses the essence of Korean abstract art: 'forming nature.' To this group of painters, creating art is to form and conceive nature in their own minds, aiming to return to nature and ultimately become one with it. Pursuing abstraction based on **content and meaning**, these Korean artists differ from Western formalist abstract artists.

Yunah Jung, Associate Vice President, Regional Specialist, Christie's, declared: "*Philosophically profound, visually beautiful, and conceptually unique, the importance of the work of Korean modern abstract artists — and particularly of those belonging to the Dansaekhwa movement — has been acknowledged by museum curators, scholars and collectors alike in recent years. However, despite this growing interest, no comprehensive retrospectives had yet been organized in major cultural hubs such as New York, and we are thrilled to present a major selling exhibition which will provide the opportunity to appreciate the unique aesthetics of Korean abstract art to both the American and the Asian public.*"

FORMING NATURE:

DANSAEKHWA KOREAN ABSTRACT ART

A DOUBLE-VENUE SELLING EXHIBITION FEATURING WORKS BY 8 KOREAN MASTERS

New York

8 to 23 October 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Hong Kong

6 November to 4 December 2015



Park Seo-Bo (b. 1931)
Écriture No. 41-75

Oil and pencil on canvas; 130 x 162 cm (51 1/8 x 63 3/4 in.)
Painted in 1975

Park Seo-Bo's contributions in liberating artists from institutional conservatism make him a pioneer in establishing the *Dansaekhwa* movement. Inspired by the instinctive scribbling of his son when he was a boy, Park resumed his noted series of *Écriture*, *Myobup* in Korean during the late 1960s. The series has been continued over more than seven decades of his artistic career, exploring profound depths and maturity in different mediums, colors and styles.



Park Seo-Bo (b. 1931)
Écriture No. 91-85

Oil and pencil on canvas; 130 x 161.2 cm. (51 1/8 x 63 1/2 in.)
Painted in 1985



Chung Sang-Hwa (b. 1932)
Untitled (2005-10-15)

Acrylic on canvas; 259 x 194 cm (101 7/8 x 76 3/8 in.)
Executed in 2005

Chung Sang-Hwa (b. 1932) has been developing his own method of repetition of 'rip' and 'fill' since the early 1970s, after his exploration of Western art in Paris at the end of 1960s. Chung's monochromatic planes achieve infinite temporality and universality through the meditative repetition. His technique is one of the primary elements that imbues his canvasses with an aspect of infinite space in nature beyond a mere formal geometric picture, encouraging the viewer to sink into deep meditation.



Chung Sang-Hwa (b. 1932)
Untitled (87-2-5)

Acrylic on canvas; 100 x 65 cm. (39 3/8 x 25 3/8 in.)
Executed in 1987

New York
8 to 23 October 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Hong Kong
6 November to 4 December 2015



Lee Ufan (b. 1936)
From Winds
Oil on canvas; 162.2 x 130 cm. (63 7/8 x 51 1/8 in.)
Painted in 1986

Lee Ufan (b. 1936) is one of the most sought-after Korean artists.

In the 1960s Lee established himself as a key theorist and artist of the *Mono-ha*, materials-based art movement in Japan. From 1971 he felt an urgency to make a statement challenging Western abstract painting and began his first signature series of paintings: *From Point* and *From Line* in 1973-1974, followed by *From Wind* (1982-86) and *With Winds* series (1987-91).

Later his works became more meditative, as apparent in his *Correspondence* (1991-2006) and *Dialogue* series (2006).

Lee's entire work is not to be considered abstract painting but a form of meditation.



Lee Ufan (b. 1936)
East Winds
Oil and mineral pigment on canvas; 53 x 65.5 cm.
(20 7/8 x 25 3/4 in.)
Painted in 1982



Yun Hyong-Keun (1928-2007)
Burnt Umber & Ultramarine
Oil on linen; 130.6 x 162.4 cm. (51 3/4 x 64 in.)
Painted in 1991

Yun Hyong-Keun (1928-2007) is widely known for his simple yet highly meditative paintings.

Yun aims to exclude from his art anything artificial or compulsory, which can risk appearing to be apart from nature.

After the labor-intensive process of the application of numerous layers of thinned paint, the canvas is placed upright to dry so that the elements of nature and gravity can be involved in the process in the way the paint soaks into the raw canvas.



Yun Hyong-Keun (1928-2007)
Burnt Umber & Ultramarine
Oil on linen; 162 x 130.5 cm. (63 3/4 x 51 3/8 in.)
Painted in 1993

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DANSAEKHWA KOREAN ABSTRACT ART

Notes to Editors:

- A curated Selling Exhibition featuring 57 works by 8 masters from the *Dansaekhwa* movement and Korean Modern Abstract Art.
- The first comprehensive group exhibition ever to be dedicated to this type of art in New York.
- Different works by the same artists, will be on view at Christie's New York in October and at Christie's Hong Kong in November 2015.
- The Korean term *Dansaekhwa* means 'monochrome painting'.
- Works by 8 artists:
 1. Chung Chang Sup 丁昌燮(1927-2011)
 2. Chung Sang-Hwa 鄭相和 (B. 1932)
 3. Ha Chong-Hyun 河鐘賢 (B. 1935)
 4. Kim Whan-ki 金煥基 (1913-1974)
 5. Lee Ufan 李禹煥 (B. 1936)
 6. Park Seo-Bo 朴栖甫(B. 1931)
 7. Rhee Seundja 李聖子(1918-2009)
 8. Yun Hyong-Keun 尹亨根 (1928-2007)

Downloads:

- To download high-res images please [click here](#).
- Artist's biographies [available here](#).
- The e-catalogue is now [online](#).

New York / 8 to 23 October 2015

- 26 works available for Private Sale; 7 works on loan.

Hong Kong / 6 November to 4 December 2015

- 19 works available for Private Sale; 5 works on loan.

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2015 that totalled £2.9 billion / \$4.5 billion. In 2014, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totalled £5.1 billion/\$8.4 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Christie's has a global presence with 54 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

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