

TINA KIM GALLERY

Tina Kim Gallery at TEFAF New York 2025

May 9–13, 2025 | Booth 358

Tina Kim Gallery is delighted to return to TEFAF New York with a focused presentation of works by leading figures of Dansaekhwa, the influential monochrome painting movement that emerged in post-war Korea in the early 1970s—presented in parallel with our gallery exhibition, *The Making of Modern Korean Art: The Letters of Kim Tschang-Yeul, Kim Whanki, Lee Ufan, and Park Seo-Bo, 1961–1982*, which opens on May 5 alongside the launch of a landmark new publication of the same title. Rounding out our booth are works by Lee ShinJa, a pioneering Korean fiber artist and contemporary of the Dansaekhwa movement, as well as a curated selection of premiere twentieth-century and contemporary works by artists in our program.

Our booth will highlight the three artists at the center of our gallery exhibition: **Kim Tschang-Yeul**, **Park Seo-Bo**, and **Lee Ufan**.

In the decades following the Korean War, **Kim Tschang-Yeul** (1929–2021), **Park Seo-Bo** (1931–2023), and **Lee Ufan (b. 1936)** each developed signature painterly languages that they would explore and cultivate throughout their careers. From the early 1970s onwards, Kim devoted his career to depicting luminous droplets of water in hyperrealistic detail. A major retrospective of Kim's work is set to open at MMCA Korea this August. Park's *Ecriture* series, which began with repeated pencil markings on wet paint, later transitioned into monochromatic, relief-like canvases created by carving lines into the pulp of hanji (traditional Korean paper). Works from both Kim's waterdrop series and Park's *Ecriture* series are also currently on view in our gallery exhibition in Chelsea. Our booth will also feature works by Lee Ufan, recognized for his vital role in both the Dansaekhwa and Mono-ha ("School of Things") movements.

Kwon Young-Woo (1926–2013) originally trained as an ink painter and combined this gestural painting style with the tactile qualities of hanji. Kwon pushed beyond the two-dimensional surface, revealing the sculptural possibilities of paper by layering, cutting, scratching, and tearing his material. In 2024, his work was featured in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition *Lineages: Korean Art at The Met*.

Ha Chong-Hyun (b. 1935) is an equally significant figure in modern Korean art, renowned for his *Conjunction* series, which he first developed in the 1970s and continues to this day. Ha's signature painting technique involves pushing oil paint from the verso side of his hemp cloth canvases, then manipulating the paint on the front to create richly textured compositions. The artist's early career was recently the focus of a solo exhibition at Art Sonje in Seoul, and recent *Conjunction* works will be featured in a solo exhibition at Château La Coste in Provence, opening in June.

A contemporary of the Dansaekhwa generation, the Korean fiber artist **Lee Shinja** (b. 1930) is finally getting her due. Her breakthrough solo exhibition at MMCA Gwacheon in 2023 marked a turning point for the artist, bringing her once-overlooked practice to a wider audience and critical acclaim. Works from across her career range from experimental textile compositions using a variety of material and textures to semi-abstract tapestries evoking the mountainous landscape of Korea's countryside.

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This August, the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive will open *Lee ShinJa: Drawing with Thread*, the first comprehensive survey of Lee's work in North America.

Also on view are a curated selection of twentieth-century and contemporary highlights, including sculptures by **Minoru Niizuma** and **Louise Bourgeois**, small paintings by **Pacita Abad**, and ceramic works by **Jane Yang D'Haene**.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Tina Kim Gallery is widely recognized for its unique programming that emphasizes international contemporary artists, historical overviews, and independent curatorial projects. The gallery has built a platform for emerging and established artists by working closely with over twenty artists and Estates, including Pacita Abad, Ghada Amer, Tania Pérez Córdova, Mire Lee, and Lee ShinJa, among others. Our expanding program of Asian-American and Asian diasporic artists, including Maia Ruth Lee, Minoru Niizuma, and Wook-Kyung Choi, evince the gallery's commitment to pushing the conversation beyond national frameworks.

Founded in 2001, the gallery opened the doors to its ground-floor Chelsea exhibition space in 2014. The gallery was instrumental in introducing Korean Dansaekhwa artists such as Park Seo-Bo, Ha Chong-Hyun, and Kim Tschang-Yeul to an international audience, establishing public and institutional awareness of this critically influential group of Asian Post-War artists. The gallery partners regularly with prominent curators, scholars, and writers to produce exhibitions and publications of rigor and critical resonance.

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