

MINJUNG KIM

Minjung KIM



Minjung KIM, *The street*, 2019 (Detail).

Biography

Minjung Kim (b. 1962) is a contemporary Korean artist best known for her ink paintings by their transparency as well as her subtle formal compositions on layered paper. Committed to re-interpreting traditional Korean aesthetics, Kim employs a process-based organization of her thoughts, problems, and whims in each of her artworks. Through the repetitive work of burning and layering mulberry Hanji paper, she conveys the process of emotional healing and meditation. Often colorful and staccato, the artist describes her calligraphic work in emotional terms: "The movement, the colors, they are so calm and peaceful. They are my state of mind," she says.

Born in 1962 in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, Kim was encouraged by her family to pursue her artistic inclination from an early age, studying under various teachers including famed watercolorist Yeongyun Kang, and between the ages of thirteen and twenty-nine, Oriental calligraphy. This latter study allowed her to understand the fundamental precepts of Asiatic speculative tradition. As Jean-Christophe Ammann describes in his essay, "Oriental (figurative) thought differs markedly from that of the West. If Western art traditionally has always been subject to major changes and sudden breakthroughs, that of the East gives the priority to the constant. The constant bears within it changed perception and its forms of expression without continuity being lost." (J. C. Ammann, *The Light, The Shade, The Depth*, 2015). The study of calligraphy did not just endow Minjung with this vision of the world but also taught her to communicate by means of the extremely controlled use of the brush, which "channels" the energy and directs it onto the paper.

When in 1980 she enrolled in the Hongik University in Seoul, Minjung had already received a very thorough artistic education which was completed through the detailed study of Oriental painting. Once her university course had been completed in 1985, she took a Master's degree at the same university with a thesis on the four basic materials in ink painting (mulberry Hanji paper, brush, ink pigment and the pigment grinding stone).

Out of her curiosity about the Italian art which led Renaissance, she decided to move to Milan, Italy and later graduated from the Brera Academy of Fine Art in 1991. Here she studied less the basics of European painting, which she had already tackled at university in Korea, than the analysis of the works of Western artists who, during the 20th century, studied Oriental painting. In particular, certain works by Paul Klee and Franz Kline prompted her to approach a new aesthetic direction that took her progressively away from the figurative tradition of her country of origin towards an investigation of the expressive value of marks and maculas, two stylistic elements that combine perfectly with the "process-based view of the world" and the ability to "channel the energy", both of which she learned in her study of calligraphy. "Unlike the concept in Korea, there is no distinction between Eastern and Western art. It is more of a matter of differences in materials." The reason why Kim has chosen mulberry Hanji paper is that it is the best material which she could handle. She began with expressing the musical rhythm through ink, and later went beyond hand-drawing, committing herself to the natural lines created by candle light or incense burn.

Her exploration of the interrelationship between Oriental and Western techniques and conceptions continues outside the Academy. She always executes her pictorial work on the floor, in keeping with Oriental tradition, because both literally and metaphorically the ground is the basic support for all painting. In her works, since 1998 on overlaid layers of paper, she burnt sections of them to generate an effect of three-dimensionality, to provide the viewer with a chronological dimension, and to indicate layers of time symbolized by the layers of paper. She gives quivering condition that is created by the burnt edges, and that reveals the form as they flourish, change, are

MINJUNG KIM

overshadowed and then reemerge from the background, immersed in those resounding spaces that embraces, contains and connects them all.

This is the key to the great charm of Minjung Kim's work: a devotion to art that transcends itself in a profound contact with life, expression of an innate beauty and ungraspable amazement at incompleteness, at feeling oneself perennially among things.

After graduating from school, Kim has lived and worked in Italy, presenting her works throughout the world including Italy, Switzerland, China, England, USA, and Israel for over thirty five years.

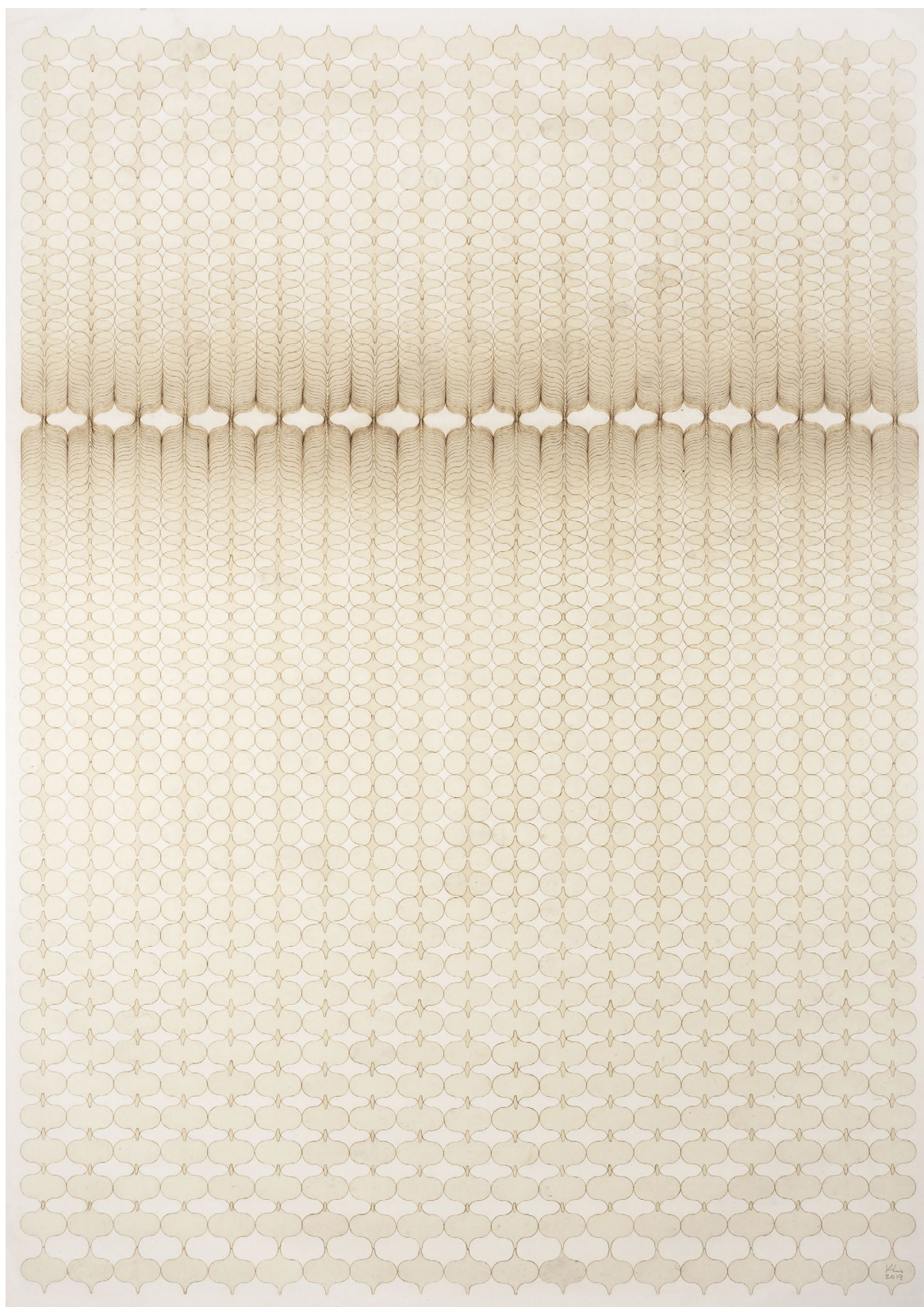
Kim particularly has gained a remarkable attention at the exhibition 'The Light, The Shade, The Depth' held in Palazzo Caboto during the Venice Biennale in 2015. She has exhibited at prominent worldwide museums and galleries, such as Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany (2019); Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju, Korea (2018); Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Nice, France (2017); Hermès Foundation, Singapore (2017); OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea (2015); Palazzo Caboto, Venice, Italy (2015); Oko, New York, USA (2014); Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy (2014); MACRO (Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma), Rome, Italy (2012); the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK (2008); Guanshanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen, China (2007); Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio, Turin, Italy (2006); and Museo Comunale d'Arte Moderna Ascona, Ascona, Switzerland (2003). She participated in the Gwangju Biennale (2018, 2004). Her work is represented in numerous international public collections including the British Museum, London, UK; Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Nice, France; Fundación Helga de Alvear, Cáceres, Spain; Swiss Re Art Collection, Zürich, Switzerland; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, New York, USA; Asia Society Museum, New York, USA; Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio, Turin, Italy; the Museum Sbygningen, Copenhagen, Denmark; OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea; and UniCredit Art Collection, Milan, Italy.

She currently lives and works between France and the United States.



Minjung KIM, 2019
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MINJUNG KIM



Minjung Kim

Sculpture, 2020

Mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper

142 x 202 cm

(20-061)

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Minjung Kim

Timeless, 2020

Ink and mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper

106 x 73 cm

(20-054)

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Minjung Kim

Timeless, 2020

Mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper

78 x 93 cm

(20-056)

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Minjung Kim

The Street, 2019

Mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper

200 x 141.5

(19-117)

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Minjung Kim

Predestination, 2020

Mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper

132 x 191 cm

(20-060)

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Minjung Kim

Predestination, 2015

mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper

135 x 200 cm

(15-030)

MINJUNG KIM



Minjung Kim

Phasing, 2019

mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper

145 x 196 cm

(19-072)

MINJUNG KIM



Minjung Kim

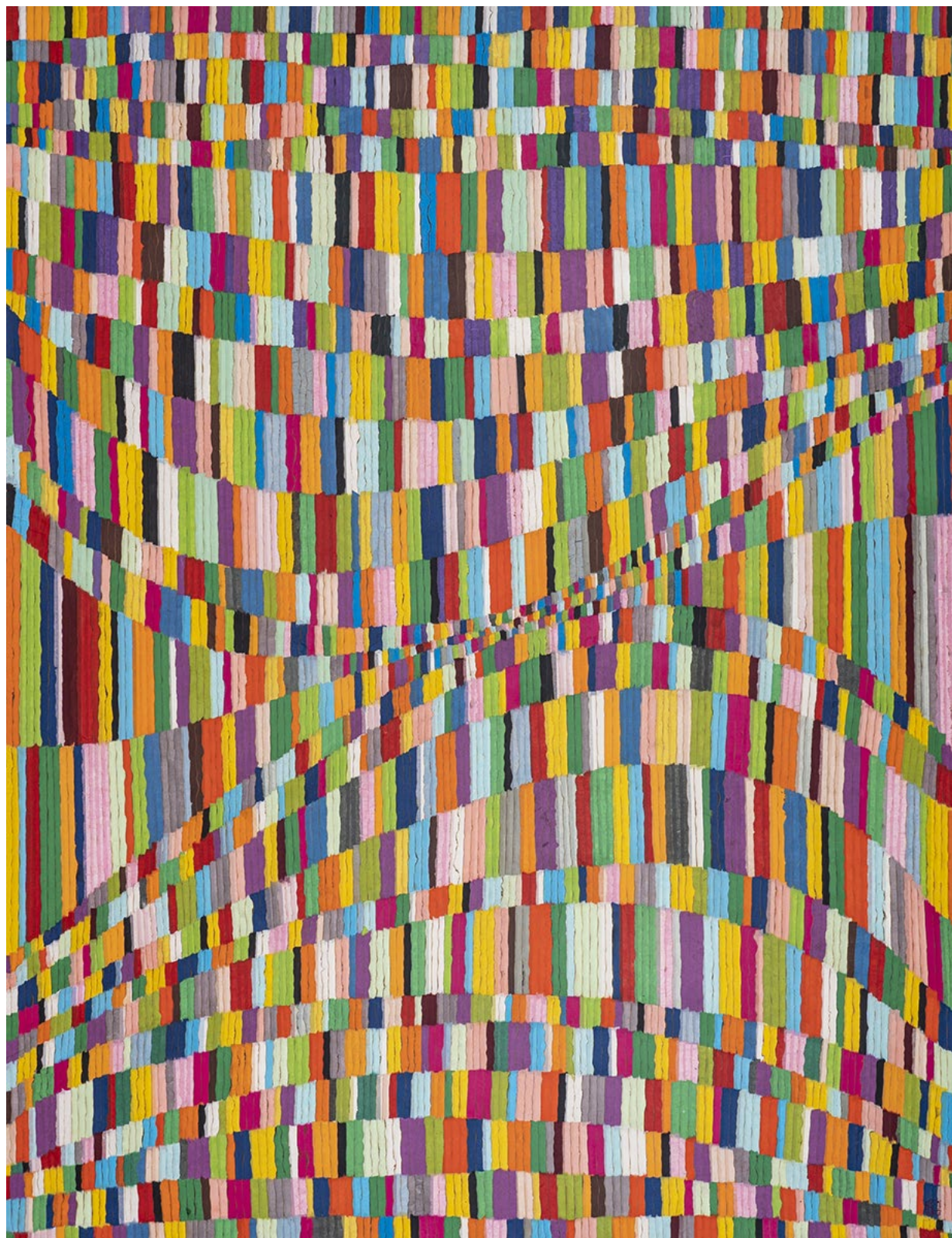
Mountain, 2020

ink on mulberry Hanji paper

140 x 142 cm

(20-040)

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Minjung Kim

Story, 2019

Mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper

135 x 175 cm

(19-093)

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Minjung Kim

Red Mountain, 2020

Ink on mulberry Hanji paper

74 x 137 cm

(20-034)

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Minjung Kim, Hill Art Foundation, New York, 2020.



Installation view, Hill Art Foundation, 2020
Courtesy of the artist and Hill Art foundation
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Minjung Kim, Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany, 2019-2020



Installation view, Langen Foundation, 2019-2020
© Kai Werner Schmidt © Langen Foundation
Courtesy of the artist.

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Minjung Kim, *Pushing paper*, British Museum, 2019



The British
Museum

Pushing paper
contemporary
drawing from
1970 to now

12 September 2019 –
12 January 2020

Free
Room 90
Prints and Drawings Gallery

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Minjung Kim, *Oneness*, Hermès Foundation, Singapore, 2017



Installation view, Hermès Foundation, Singapore, 2017
© Edward Hendricks © Hermès Foundation
Courtesy of the artist.

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Minjung Kim, Musée des arts asiatiques, Nice, France, 2017



Installation view, Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Nice, France
© Ville de Nice
Courtesy of the artist.

MINJUNG KIM



MINJUNG KIM

Minjung Kim (b. 1962-)

EDUCATION

MFA, Brera Academy of Fine Art, Milan, Italy
MFA, Oriental Painting, Hongik University, Seoul, Korea
BFA, Oriental Painting, Hongik University, Seoul, Korea

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020

Minjung Kim, Hill Art Foundation, New York, USA

2019

Minjung Kim, Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany
Minjung Kim, Galerie Catherine Issert
Minjung Kim, Galería Cayón, Mahón, Menorca, Spain

2018

Minjung Kim: Mountains, Robilant+Voena Fine Art
Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland
The Memory of Process, White Cube, London, UK
Making the Void, Filling the Void, Gwangju Museum of
Art, Gwangju, Korea

2017

Phasing, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London,
UK
Cendre & Lumière, Musée des Arts asiatiques, Conseil
Départemental 06, Nice, France
Oneness, Hermès Foundation, Singapore
Paper, Ink and Fire: After the Process, Gallery Hyundai,
Seoul, Korea

2016

Phasing, Galerie Volker Diehl, Berlin, Germany
Minjung Kim, Leslie Sacks Gallery, Santa Monica, Los
Angeles, USA

2015

Traces, OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
The Light, The Shade, The Depth, Luxembourg &
Dayan, Palazzo Caboto, Venice, Italy
(curated by Jean-Christophe Ammann)

2014

Oko, New York, USA (curated by Alison Gingeras)

Minjung Kim: The Sound of Light, Galerie Commeter,
Hamburg, Germany

Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy (catalogue with a
text of Gerardo Mosquera)
Art Genève 2014, Luxembourg & Dayan, Artgèneve
Salon d'Art, Geneva, Switzerland

2013

Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London, UK

2012

The Sound of Light, Marco (Museo d'Arte Contem-
poranea Roma), Testaccio, Rome, Italy
Leslie Sacks Gallery, Brentwood, Los Angeles, USA
Galleria Sahrai, Milan, Italy

2010

Galleria Sant'Angelo, Biella, Italy

2009

Galleria Valeria Bella Stampe, Milan, Italy
Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London, UK
Galleria Ermanno Tedeschi, Rome, Italy

2008

Galleria Ermanno Tedeschi, Turin, Italy
Robilant+Voena Fine Art Gallery, London, UK
Gallerie Mudimadrie, Antwerp, Belgium

2007

Guanshanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
Copenhagen Art Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Leslie Sacks Fine Art, Brentwood, Los Angeles, USA
Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London, UK
Giudecca795 Galleria d'Arte, Venice, Italy

2006

Montecarlo Art Gallery, Milan, Italy
Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio, Turin, Italy
Galleria Valeria Bella Stampe, Milan, Italy

2004

Arte92, Milan, Italy
Ikos, Modena, Italy

2003

MINJUNG KIM

Museo Comunale di Ascona, Ascona, Switzerland
(catalogue with a text of Roberto Borghi)
Leslie Sacks Gallery, Brentwood, Los Angeles, USA
Gallerie Patrick Cramer, Geneva, Switzerland

2002

Galleria Recalcati, Turin, Italy
Copenhagen Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Galleria Cafiso, Milan, Italy

1999

Wickeiser Gallery, New York, USA
Galerie Patrick Cramer, Geneva, Switzerland (catalogue with a text of Roberto Borghi)

1998

Galleria Cafiso, Milan, Italy (catalogue with texts of Luciano Caramel and Roberto Borghi)

1997

Cappella di Villa Ruffolo, Ravello, Italy

1996

Galleria Arte Borgogna, Milan, Italy (catalogue with texts of Cristina Cano, Jacqueline Ceresoli and Gianni Schubert)
Galleria Kontraste, Forte dei Marmi, Italy

1991

Baik Song Gallery, Seoul, Korea (catalogue with text of Suh Seong Rock)
Injae Art Museum, Gwangju, Korea

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020

Sheds Lights on Korea's Experimental in 2nd Part of 50th Anniversary Show, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
Group Show, Patrick Heide Gallery, London

2019

Pushing Paper: Contemporary Drawing from 1970 to Now, The British Museum, London, England
Dessins, Catherine Issert Gallery, Saint Paul de Venice, France

2018

Imagined Borders, The 12th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, Korea
Clouds Stretching For A Thousand Miles: Ink in Asian Art, Asia Society, New York, USA
Changwon Sculpture Biennale 2018, Changwon, Korea

2017

The Mulberry Forest Becoming Ocean, Esther Schipper, Berlin, Germany
Korean: Now and Then, Asia Week New York Contemporary, Kang Contemporary, New York, USA
Moi & Les Auters, Galerie Catherine Issert, St. Paul de Venice, France

2016

Viewing The Past Thru Modern Eyes, Kang Collection, New York, USA

2015

Happy Modern and Contemporary Korean Paintings, Kang Collection, New York, USA
The Gaze of... Selected Works of the Unicredit Art Collection, Uncredit Pavillon, Milan, Italy

2014

Abstraction: 1911-2014, Leslie Sacks Gallery, Santa Monica, Los Angeles, USA
Maestri antichi, moderni imprenditori, Galleria Valeria Bella Stampe, Milan, Italy

2012

World, Ermanno Tedeschi Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel
TEFAF 2012, Jacobs Fine Art Gallery, Maastricht, Netherlands
New!, Galleria Valeria Bella Stampe, Milan, Italy
Settimana della Corea, Santa Maria della Vita, Bologna, Italy

2011

Galleria E. Tedeschi, Tel Aviv, Israel
Landscape and Memory, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London, UK

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2010

Twilight Zone, Morgen Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2009

Across the Cross (Michelangelo el contemporanei),

Trapani, Italy

La Biennale di Venezia- Sant Elena, Venice, Italy

Galleria La Giarina, Verona, Italy

Galleria E. Tedeschi, Complesso del Vittoriano, Rome, Italy

2008

Prospects and Interiors: Sculptors' Drawings of Inner Space, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds,

UK

2004

The 5th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, Korea

2002

Mostra collettiva, Galleria Cafiso, Milan, Italy

2001

Paris, New York, Washington D.C. The Odyssey 2001,

Korean Republic Embassy,

Washington D.C., USA

Galleria Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Simboli e simbolismi nell'arte contemporanea, Ticosca

Spazio a Shed, Como, Italy

1998

Mostra di incisioni, Sala Grassi, Corbetta, Milan, Italy

Territori di frontiera, Spazio Laboratorio Hajech, Milan, Italy

Ad Imaginem, Spazio Linati, Milan, Italy

1997

Arti visive, Circolo Culturale Bertold Brecht, Milan, Italy

Pittura e scultura del terzo millennio, Casa del Rigoletto, Mantua, Italy

Mostra collettiva, Galleria Borgogna, Milan, Italy

Mostra collettiva, Galleria Cafiso, Milan, Italy

Incisione collettiva, Castello di Galliate, Galliate, Novara, Italy

Mostra collettiva, Galleria Kontraste, Forte dei Marmi,

Italy

1996

Mimesis, Galleria della Cassa di Risparmio di Caldaro, Bolzano, Italy

Nel segno della Luna, Rocca Malatestiana, Montefiore Conca, Italy

1995

International Exhibition of Art Colleges Hiroshima '95, Hiroshima, Japan

Quali differenze, Galleria Arcadia Nuova, Milan, Italy

Mostra Collettiva, Galleria Cafiso, Milan, Italy

Salon I, Living Art Gallery, Milan, Italy

Mostra collettiva, Galleria Kontraste, Forte dei Marmi, Italy

1994

Brera a Venezia, Liceo Artistico Statale, Venice, Italy

Dove sostano gli Dei, Centro Storico di Saronno, Italy

First Price International Competition, Fanum Fortunae, Fano, Italy

Sequenze d'Arte Contemporanea, Torre di Ligny -

Museo della Preistoria, Trapani, Italy

Salon I '94, Galleria Arte Borgogna, Milan, Italy

Salon I '94, Villa Litta Carini, Milan, Italy

S.B.C. European competition '94, Swiss Bank House, London, UK

Mostra collettiva, Galleria Cafiso, Milan, Italy

La Stampa Originale, Civica Biblioteca d'Arte del Castello Sforzesco, Milan, Italy

1991

Pure Korean Art, National Museum of Modern Art, Gwacheon, Korea

1990

Koreana Painting - Perspective Years '90, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea

Night with the Artist, Intercontinental Hotel, Seoul, Korea

1989

Current Seoul, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea

Korean Painting - 43 Artist Invited, Chosun Press Center Museum, Seoul, Korea

MINJUNG KIM

1988

Yiyeon, Kwanhoon Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
Consciousness of transition in the Korean modern painting, Kwanhoon Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
Chunchu, Osaka International Culture Exchange Center, Osaka, Japan
Plastic Art for Today and Tomorrow - 16 Artists, Dongduk Art Gallery, Seoul, Korea
Yeobaik - 16 Artists, Baegak Art Center, Seoul, Korea
New Plastic Art, Chunbuk Art Center, Seoul, Korea

1987

Chunchu, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
Yiyeon, Dongduk Gallery, Seoul, Korea
New-Expressionism Korean Painting, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Korean Painting - 10 Artist Research, Kwanhoon Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
Post Art, '3 Gallery, Seoul, Korea
Section of Korean Modern Painting, Chunbuk Art Center, Seoul, Korea

1986

Chunchu, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Works of Korean Paintings, Hongik Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
Yiyeon, Kwanhoon Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
Hanmoim Incisione, Kwanhoon Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
Korean Painting. The Differences, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Oriental Painting Hong Ik, Kyung In Art Museum, Seoul, Korea

1985

Modern Korean Visual Art, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Chunchu, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Yiyeon, Kwanhoon Art Museum, Seoul, Korea

MINJUNG KIM

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Story, Fundación Helga de Alvear, Cáceres, Spain

The Street, Swiss Re Art Collection, Zürich, Switzerland

Phasing, Asia Society, New York, USA

Mutation, Asia Society, New York, USA

Phasing, The British Museum, London, UK

The Room, The British Museum, London, UK

Mountain, The British Museum, London, UK

Story, Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Paris, France

Pieno di Vuoto, Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Paris, France

Dobae, OCI Museum, Korea

Female, Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio, Turin, Italy

Story, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

Pieno di Vuoto, UniCredit, Milan, Italy

MINJUNG KIM

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Monographs and catalogues

Minjung Kim, *The Memory of Process*, 2018

(exhibition White Cube, London, 26th January – 10th March 2018)

Making the Void, Filling the Void, 2018

(exhibition Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju, 22th August – 25th November 2018)

Cendre & Lumière: oeuvre de Minjung Kim, 2017

(exhibition Musée des arts asiatiques de Nice, 26th February – 3rd September 2017)

Minjung Kim, *Paper, Ink and Fire: After the Process*, 2017

(exhibition Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, 1st September – 8th October 2017)

Minjung Kim, *Traces*, 2015

(exhibition OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, 5th November – 27th December 2015)

Minjung Kim, *The Light, The Shade, The Depth*, 2015

(exhibition Palazzo Caboto, Venezia, 5th May – 27th September 2015)

The Gaze of... Selected Works of the Unicredit Art Collection, 2015

(group exhibition Uncredit Pavillon, Milano, 31st July – 30th August 2015)

Minjung Kim, *Red Mountain*, 2014

(exhibition Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, 11th December 2014 – 1st March 2015)

Minjung Kim, *il suono della luce*, 2011

(exhibition Macro Testaccio, Roma, 25th January – 4th March 2012)

Minjung Kim, *Fire is science and sculpture*, 2010

(exhibition Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London, 13th October – 14th November 2009)

Minjung Kim, *Vuoto nel pieno*, 2006

(exhibition Palazzo Bricherasio, Torino, 26th May – 2nd July 2006)

Minjung Kim, 2004

(exhibition Arte92, Milano, 7th October – 13th November 2004)

Minjung Kim, *Skira*, Geneva-Milano, 2002

Minjung Kim, 1996

(exhibition Galleria Arte Borgogna, Milano, May 1996)

MINJUNG KIM

Minjung Kim, 1991

(exhibition Baik Song Art Gallery, Seoul, 27th March – 2nd April 1991)

Catalogues Texts

Gerardo Mosquera, "The Western Path (Reloaded)", Cendre & Lumière: oeuvre de Minjung

Kim, Musée des arts asiatiques de Nice, 2017

Sook-Kyung Lee, Ph.D., "The gaze of Orpheus", OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, 2015

Sora Kim, "Traces", OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, 2015

Sora Kim, "A Solo Exhibition of Minjung Kim:Traces", 2015

Jean-Christophe Ammann, "The light, the shade, the depth", Palazzo Caboto, Venezia, 2015

Gianluca Ranzi, "In Shin-Ra the sun shines at midnight", Roma, 2012

Elena Fiorin, "Aesthetic religions and poetic truths", Sant'Elena: La seduzione nel segno,
53° Biennale di Venezia, Venezia, 2009

Victoria Cohen, "Capolungo –The sensitive horizon of contemporary art", Gallery Ermanno Tedeschi, Rome,
2009

Claudio Ceritelli, "Soffi di energia nel mistero del vuoto", Galleria Arte92, Milano, 2004

Antonio d'Avossa, "Dall'inchostro al fuoco", Milano, 2002

Roberto Borghi, "Le 'minimalisme expressif' de Minjung Kim", Galerie Patrick Cramer, Genève, 1999

Luciano Caramel, "Inchiostro, rifrazione dell'inconscio", Galleria Cafiso, Milano, 1998

Roberto Borghi, "Dall'inchostro all'inconscio, attraverso la luce e il calore", Galleria Cafiso, Milano, 1998

Gianni Schubert, "Interpretando Debussy", Galleria Arte Borgogna, Milano, 1996

Jacqueline Ceresoli, "Spartito di note di colore", Galleria Arte Borgogna, Milano, 1996

Cristina Cano, "Ritmi visivi e impressioni musicali", Galleria Arte Borgogna, Milano, 1996

Giacomo Agosti, "Minjung Kim", Milano, 1995

Suh Seong Rock, "Bringing meaning into objects", Baik Song Art Gallery, Seoul, 1991