



BAHK JONG SUN

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Against the prevailing emphasis on external appearance and artificial beauty, the works of BAHK Jong Sun have their significance in the “emptying”, or clearing away of all excess, valued by *Joseon* dynasty scholars, who pursued a practical aesthetic based on Confucian principles. Going beyond modesty to appeal through sheer simplicity, BAHK’s creations take their motif from *Joseon* furniture. They inherit the distinctive philosophy of the *Seonbi*, or virtuous scholar, and thus prioritize functionality over adornment.

BAHK’s pieces convey a natural beauty achieved by the subtle harmony of lines and curves. In this respect, they can be said to embody the nobility and dignity of the *Joseon seonbi*. The beauty of scholarly restraint figured forth by *Joseon*-era furniture surpasses the designs of Northern European furniture in stylistic poise and minimalism. Hence, the graceful, understated style that characterizes BAHK’s creations is not his end goal as an artist, but a natural result stemming from his internalization of the fundamental principles of philosophy of Confucianism.

BAHK emphasizes the naturalness that comes from understanding how to use wood grains and characteristics to their fullest. Thus, what he values most in his creative process is achieving sympathy with the wood itself. In his self-decorated workshop in rural Gangwon Province, BAHK is always surrounded by nature. He finds and gathers his materials from the nature around him, so although the wood he uses may not be the kind best-suited for furniture-making, it nonetheless results in the finest works. To discover how a gifted carpenter has transformed the material properties of wood is to see his very capacity as a carpenter. BAHK’s furniture pieces, which are simple and not ostentatious, speak through natural forms rather than through design.

To BAHK, wood is something with which one coexists. His refined and delicate touch, born of the spirit of a true artisan, melds functionality with sensibility, bringing his works that much closer to those who view them.



Born in 1969

Lives and works in Wonju, Korea

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 Echo, Ishikawa International Salon, Kanazawa
Time of Wood, Gallery SEOMI, Seoul
- 2009 Journey with Wood, Topohaus, Seoul
The Journey to Somewhere, Gallery Corner, Seoul
Water, Islet & Repose, Craft Awon, Seoul
- 2007 The Forest of Light and Sound, Craft Awon, Seoul
- 2006 Make a Sound in Wooden Furniture, Haslla Artworld, Gangwon
The Sound of Landscape, Chiak Artcenter, Wonju, Gangwon
- 2005 Speak Seriously to the Tree, Gallery Leeham, Wonju, Gangwon

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Korea Now!, Bayerisches National Museum, Munich
- 2015 A Case Study in Lighting, LA
Korea Now!, Musee Des Arts Decoratifs, Paris
- 2014 Korean Contemporary Design, Edward Tyler Nahem Fine Art, New York
- 2013 Contemporary Korean Design 2, R20th Century Design Gallery, New York
- 2010 Contemporary Korean Design, R20th Century Design Gallery, New York
- 2009 A Collision of Sentiments, Acozza Gallery, Wonju, Gangwon
- 2008 Empty Project "The Light", Seogok Church, Wonju, Gangwon
The Story of City at Three Persons, Samil Road Storage Theatre, Seoul
- 2005 Asia Pacific Weeks Berlin 2005 Focus Korea, Nomadic Plaza, Berlin

FAIRS

- 2020 Craft trend Fair, Seoul
- 2015 Design Miami/Basel, Basel
- 2014 Design Miami/, Miami
Design Miami/Basel, Basel
Collective 2 : Design Fair, New York
- 2013 Design Miami/, Miami
Los Angeles Antiques, Art + Design Show, LA
Design Miami/Basel, Basel
- 2012 PAD, Pavilion of Art & Design, London
Design Miami/Basel, Basel
- 2011 Design Miami/i, Miami Design Miami/Basel, Basel
- 2010 Design Miami/i, Miami Design Miami/Basel, Basel
- 2009 Design Miami, Miami

AWARD

- 2011 Yumin Creative Awards, The Yumin Cultural Foundation & JoongAng Ilbo Newspaper, Korea

SELECTED COLLECTION

- 2011 Hana Bank Training Institute, Korea



Lighting



Trans-1003
Cherry
18.5W x 27.5D x 199.5H cm
2010







Trans-1004
Cherry, Zelkova, Brass
80W x 80D x 156H cm
2010







Trans-1008

Walnut

177.5W x 27D x 27H cm(Part 1)

62W x 33D x 27H cm(Part 2)

2010



Mirror



Trans-15apr-02
Walnut, Zelkova, Ebony, Copper
27W x 42.6D x 30H cm
2015





Trans-15Sep-03
Ebony veneer, Solid Mahogany, White copper, Brass
41.5W x 25.5D x 22H, 49H cm
2015





Trans-15Sep-04
Ebony veneer, Red copper, Brass
36W x 24D x 25H, 46H cm
2015





Desk Object



Garing Pen Rest

Garing

Size approx. 27W x 6.7D x 2H cm

2012



Desk Tray
Zelkova, wenge
80W x 11D x 6H cm
2012





Desk Tray
Walnut, Copper
2016



Trans160419
Polished Copper
32W x 5D x 3H cm
2016



Storage



Trans L-C 2011-02
Cherry, Traditional lacquer wood
340W x 50D x 180H cm
2011







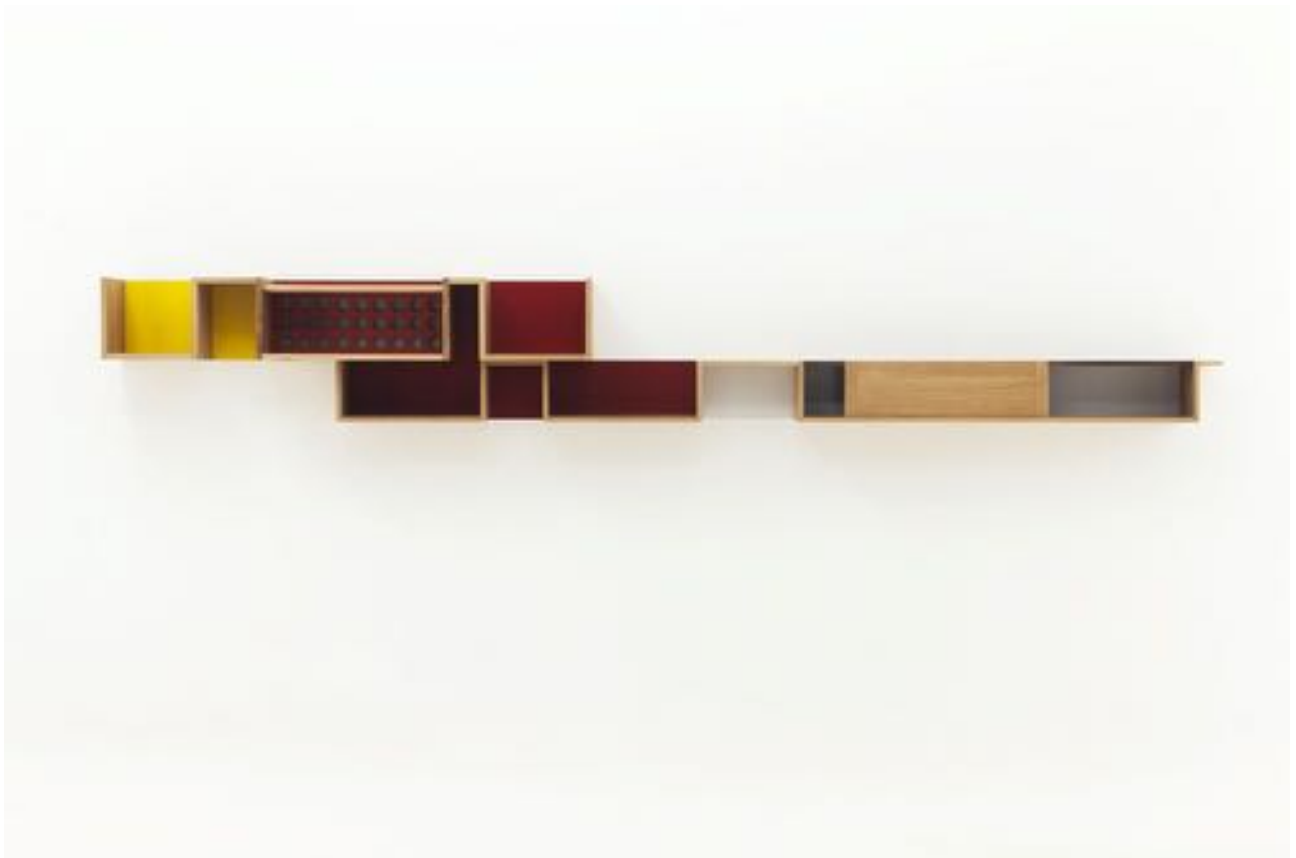
Trans-13-001
White oak
320W x 40D x 187H cm
2013







Trans-13-002
Cherry, Maple, Walnut, Aluminium
324W x 40D x 187H cm
2013



Trans-13-003
White oak, walnut, aluminum
331W x 29D x 43H cm
2014



Trans-13-004
White oak , Walnut , Aluminum
303W x 38D x 130H cm
2014



Trans-15Apr-01
Hard Maple, Mirror Polished Copper, Brass, Copper, Colored on Galvanizing Steel,
LED, Audio AMP
303.1W x 40D x 145.7H cm
2015







Table / Desk



Zelkova Table
Zelkova
155W x 55D x 74H cm
2009



Walnut Table
Walnut
225W x 74D x 74H cm
2009



Dining Table
White oak, Walnut
243W x 90D x 73H cm
2010





Trans L-C 2011-01
Cherry
180W x 160D x 74H cm
2011





Transpose
White oak, Walnut, White Copper
192W x 160D x 73.5H cm
2011





Trans 2012-Desk_S
Birch plywood, Sliced oak veneer, Walnut
122W x 68D x 77H cm
2012







Dining Table for 12 persons
White oak, preform casted concrete
300W x 90D x 74H cm
2012





Trans-13-003
Cherry
206.5W x 83D x 93.5H cm
2013







Trans-14-008
Cherry, Walnut, Brass
134W x 44D x 44H cm
2014





Trans 2015Apr27
Walnut, Copper, Aluminum
250W x 110D x 74H cm
2015





Chair / Bench



Cherry Armchair
Cherry
60W x 48D x 76H cm
2009



Walnut Armchair
Walnut
55W x 56D x 80.5H cm
2009



Walnut Chair
Walnut
47W x 47W x 68H cm
2009



Maple Chair
Maple
47W x 47W x 68H cm
2009



Kalopanax Chair
Kalopanax
40W x 39D x 71.5H cm
2009



Walnut
37W x 44D x 80H cm
2012



Study Room Chair
Walnut
48W x 60D x 76H cm
2010



Study Room Chair
Maple
48W x 60D x 76H cm
2010





Trans 2012-Chair
Cherry
43W x 38D x 75H cm
2012



White Oak Chair
White Oak
36.5W x 45D x 82H cm
2010





Tranquil A
White Oak
62W x 65D x 86H cm
2012



Trans-13-004
Cherry
59.5W x 45D x 76H cm
2013



Ash Bench
Ash
182W x 43D x 43H cm
2009



Beech Bench
Beech
162W x 40D x 40H cm
2009



Trans-14-005
Cherry, Red silk
180W x 63D x 66H cm
2014



Trans-14-006
Cherry, Black, Blue, White Silk
180W x 63D x 66H cm
2014



Trans-14-007
Cherry, Black, Yellow silk
129W x 63D x 66H cm
2014





