

Lloyd Choi Gallery

KOREAN BLUE 2 - 6 November 2022

Galley 3, 4 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2JE

“(The) sky in my country Korea is intensely blue, and our east sea is so clear and pure that it would dye a white cloth into blue” – Kim Whan-gi

Unlike Yves Klein, the colour blue was a hue that meant home to the pioneering Korean painter Kim Whan-gi who moved to Paris in the 1950s and became the father of the Korean abstract art movement. Its purity, transparency and tranquillity reflect the virtue of Korean traditions that significantly shaped Korean modernity and art. The nostalgic hue continues to inspire Korean artists of today. This exhibition will present new works demonstrating how Korean contemporary artists are making, working with, and feeling ‘Blue’.

We are delighted to present ‘Korean Blue’, an exhibition exploring Blue as a colour of Korean art. This exhibition coincides with the V&A’s Korean exhibition ‘K-Wave’ and Asian Art in London this Autumn.

Make Blue

Lee So-ra, the Korean textile artist, reinterprets ‘Jogakbo’ (Korean traditional domestic patchwork) into large works of contemporary art. The exhibition presents the new blue works that follow her larger masterpiece, *Blue Oksa Jojakbo no.1*. Lee used cold indigo dye, from home-grown herbs to achieve a pure and tranquil colour that echoes Kim Whan-gi’s poetic words.

Kim Hyun-ju explores the ancient decorative techniques of mother-of-pearl to give a living palette to lifeless metal. Her innovative blue works are made of fine white mother-of-pearl. Just visible is the underlay of Ottchil, the traditional lacquer which Kim applies first onto the metal.

Work with Blue

Choi Bo-ram reinterprets traditional, blue and white pottery into arresting optically surreal sculptures. The artist builds classical forms using small clay patches and then uses the form as a canvas to draw delicate blue lines onto, connecting one ‘patch’ to another.

Kwak Hye-young is an abstract ceramic artist who uses blue to ‘record’ the rain in her ceramic works. The artist prepares canvas-like porcelain boards, using cobalt mixed with dark pigments. As the raindrops land and combine, they form rivulets, pools and washes - these movements are all caught by the mixed media and clay.

Feel the Blue

Mok-su is an anonymous Korean artist who has adopted woodcarving as a meditational practice to silence his restless mind. Every morning before sunrise, Mok-su starts his practice of hand-carving. Smallness, ‘lowness’ and the emptiness of his work manifest his practice, its quiet grace conveying comfort to the human soul.

For any enquires, email: contact@lloydchoigallery.com

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