



Eemyun Kang

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EEMYUN KANG: ON MYTH AND POETRY

Eemyun Kang’s exquisite paintings depict her fascination with nature and the process of morphology. Ably translating organic forms into lush abstractions, Kang creates complex worlds marked by energetic and fluid brush strokes. For the exhibition at Kukje Gallery, Kang takes the changing seasons as a central motif. In addition she has combined a disparate group of literary sources as inspiration including an Alaskan Inuit myth, the Biblical story of *Jonah and the Whale*, as well as various poems written by English artist and poet Fabian Peake. These three sources form the basis for the narratives contained in Kang’s new paintings.

The artist defines myth as a tool for understanding nature and events in the real world. For Kang, “Myth is a tool that operates through the creative imagination. Myth as traditional tales, legends and folklores are also linked with use of myth in my paintings as a starting point for creating a narrative of events.” Within a myth, Kang is particularly focused on transformation and metamorphosis, specifically the states of being in-between, phenomena or anthropomorphism. The ideas behind these stories are not illustrated figuratively or in a linear narrative but are intended to be read by the viewer intuitively. The stories allude to simple pictorial references including whales, fungi, snow, wind, moon, forests and valleys. These elements shift and combine, allowing for transformation to take place on a metaphorical level and formally in complex layers of paint on canvas.

Alternating between abstract and figurative registrars, Kang creates imagined hybrid worlds or mystic landscapes. In Kang’s paintings, the paint and canvas constitute transformative elements that mediate between subject and object, subconsciousness and consciousness, abstraction and figuration. The artist is also known to leave the canvas appear unfinished, a decision that activates the canvas and mirrors nature’s infinite process of change and transformation.

Eemyun Kang was born in 1981 in Busan, Korea. She obtained her BA from The Slade School of Fine Art and completed her postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Arts, where she was awarded the school’s prestigious Gold Medal upon graduation in 2009. She has also received her doctorate degree from University of East London in November this year. Kang’s work has been exhibited widely in the UK as well as internationally, including group shows at the Seoul Arts Center, and the Korean Cultural Center in London. She has also held a solo exhibition at the Trondheim Kunstmuseum, Norway this year. Eemyun Kang currently lives and works in London.

강임윤 작가는 자연의 묘미와 변신의 과정을 섬세하게 표현한다. 강렬하고 우아한 붓터치로 유기적인 형상을 풍부한 추상으로 전환하여 그림으로써 다양한 세계를 재현해 낸다. 작가는 이번 국제갤러리 전시에서 변화하는 계절을 주요 모티브로 삼았다. 이와 함께 알래스카 이누이트 족 신화, 영국의 작가이자 시인인 파비안 픽(Fabian Peake)이 지은 시(詩)와 더불어 <요나와 고래>에 관한 성경 속 이야기 등 다양한 문학적 소재를 작품으로 재구성하여 내러티브를 확장시키고 있다.

작가는 ‘신화’를 현실 속에서 일어나는 사건과 자연을 이해하기 위한 수단으로 정의한다. 그에 따르면, “신화는 풍부한 상상력으로 이루어지는 도구이다. 전통적인 설화인 신화, 전설과 민담 또한 사건을 재현하기 위한 출발점으로써 그림 안에 신화를 담아내는 것과 연관되어 있다.”고 말한다. 신화 안에서, 작가는 특히 변화와 변형의 요소, 구체적으로는 변신하는 과정, 현상 또는 의인화에 초점을 두고 있다. 이는 비유적, 혹은 순차적인 내러티브를 보여주고자 하는 것이 아닌, 보는 이로 하여금 직관적으로 인지할 수 있도록 하기 위함이다. 작가는 그림 안에 고래, 버섯(fungi), 눈, 바람, 달, 숲과 계곡을 비롯하여 간소한 이미지 상의 소재들을 던지시 언급한다. 이러한 요소들은 전이되고 결합되어 은유적인 단계로 변모하면서 캔버스 위에 중첩된 레이어로 형상화 된다.

강임윤은 추상과 구상을 넘나들며 상상 속 하이브리드 세상, 혹은 신비한 풍경들을 재현해 낸다. 작가의 회화에서, 그림과 캔버스는 주체와 객체 또는 잠재된 의식과 자의식, 추상과 형상 간에 영향을 주고받는 변형적인 요소로 구성되어 있다. 또한 그리는 과정 속에 완결된 이미지는 자연이 지닌 지속적인 변화와 전이의 과정을 그대로 투영한다.

강임윤은 1981년 부산에서 태어났다. 영국 슬레이드 대학에서 학사를 마친 후, 영국 왕립 미술원에서 수학하였고 2009년 골드 메달을 수상하며 석사 학위를 받았다. 또한 올해에는 이스트런던대학교에서 박사 학위를 수여받았다. 작가는 예술의 전당, 주영한국문화원 그룹전을 비롯하여 국내 외 다수의 그룹전에 참여하였고, 올해에는 노르웨이 트론헤임 미술관에서 개인전을 가진 바 있다. 작가는 현재 런던에 거주하며 작품 활동을 하고 있다.

FABIAN PEAKE: POEMS

FUNGI (from Find the Lady)

The sun burnt a hole in the sky
the day you took me mushrooming.
Our talk rifled through the copse,
voices ricocheting off silver bark.

Rain, sun, downpour, sparkle.
Squelching in mud we searched under
the corpses of beech trees fallen
in the Great Blow. You knew where to look

and probed with expert fingers.
We found a few – mainly Amanitas
like Grisette and its tawny cousin.
Beneath winking leaf cover we listened

to the distance droning like a hive.
Death Cap and Destroying Angel blunt-
nosed through soft ground at our feet.
You said the clouds were so beautiful.

Billowing, a porcelain-white mood
enveloped us and a shock wave wind
blew open the doors of reason. You fell out,
plummeting to madness.

Fabian Peake. Feb./March 1996.

IN THE DARK

We lie down in the woods
giving ourselves to your idea.

The animals will pull at our skin
and chew our muscles.

The stench blooms. White coats
don masks to do their work,

prodding, measuring, scooping us.
We will melt into the leaves.

Fabian Peake. 2003.

평기 (‘아가씨를 찾아라’ 발췌)

그대가 나를 이끌어 버섯 채집에 나선 날
태양은 하늘에 난 구멍 하나를 태웠다.
우리의 대화는 잡목림 사이를 떠돌았고
음성은 은빛 나무껍질에 닿아 튕겼다.

빗물, 태양, 폭우, 광채.
질퍽거리는 진흙을 걸으며 우리는
거센 바람으로 쓰러진 너도밤나무 시체 밑을
살펴보았다. 그대는 찾아야 할 곳을 알고 있었고

숙련된 솜씨로 캐내었다.
우리가 찾아낸 몇 안 되는 버섯들은 – 대부분
고동색우산버섯과 그의 황갈색 사촌 같은 광대버섯이었다.
반짝이는 나뭇잎 아래서 우리는

멀리 벌집이 웅웅대는 듯한 소리를 들었다.
발 밑에는 보드라운 대지를 뚫고
뭉툰한 고개를 내민 독버섯과 죽음의 천사가 있었다.
그대는 구름이 참 아름답다고 말했다.

도자기처럼 새하얀 감정이 소용돌이치며
우리를 감싸 안았고, 강렬한 파장의 바람이
이성의 창을 열어 젖혔다. 그대는 굴러 떨어지며
광기로 곤두박질쳤다.

파비안 픽. 1996년 2월-3월

어둠 속에서

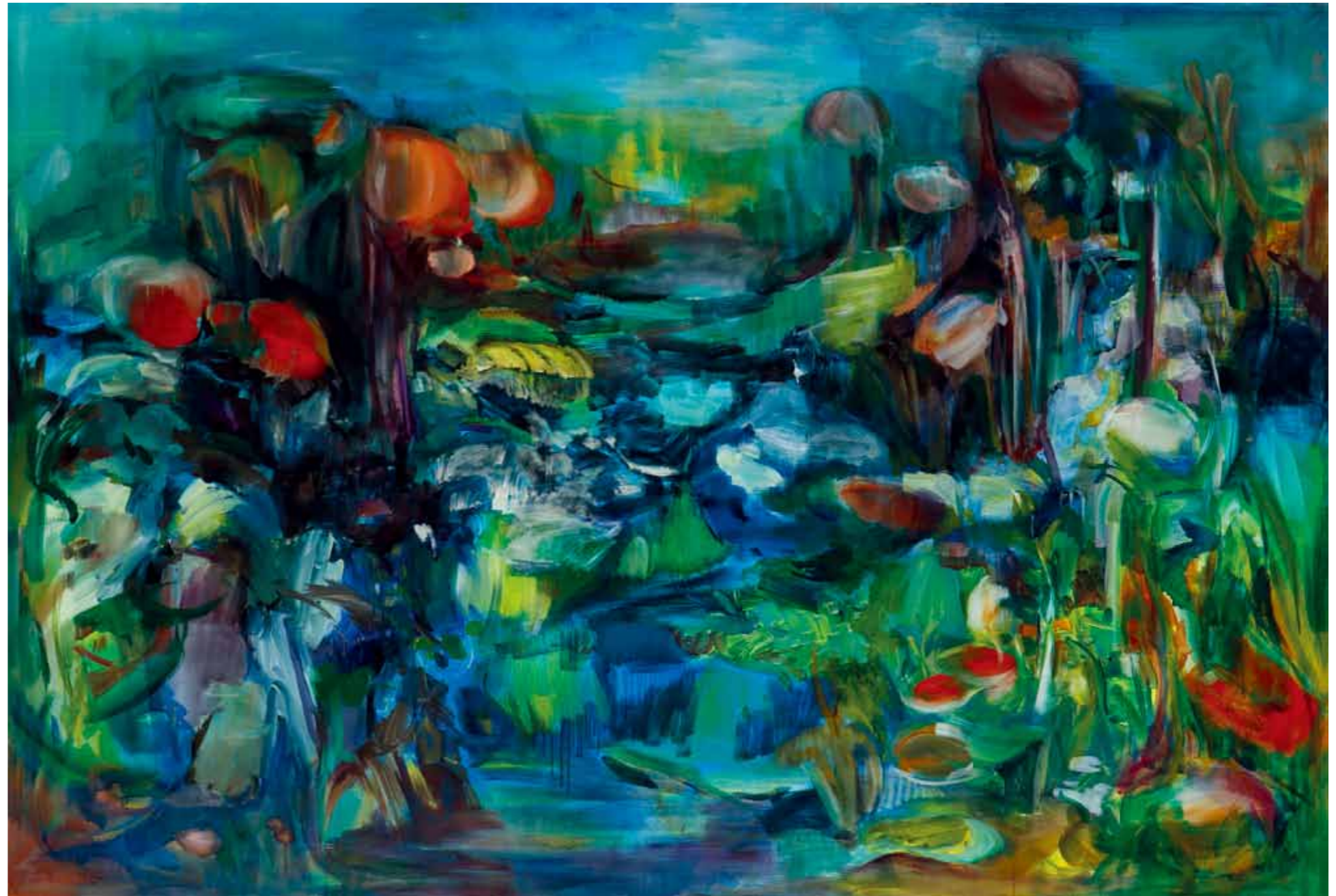
당신의 생각을 곱씹으며
우리는 숲 속에 드러누웠다.

우리의 육신은 야수들의 이빨에
갈기갈기 찢기고 물어 뜯기겠지.

진동하는 악취. 흰 가운을 입은 이들은
그들의 일을 수행하기 위해 가면을 쓴 체

우리를 들쭉시키고, 판단하고, 떠보네.
낙엽 속 녹는 우리.

파비안 픽. 2003.



1.
VALLEY OF THE RORQUAL
수염고래의 골짜기



2.
RED WIND FOREST
붉은 바람의 숲



3.
SNOWSCAPE
눈 풍경



4.
MOON ON MOSS
이끼위에 핀 달



5.
WHALESCAPE
고래 풍경





6.
FOREST SWALLOWED SPRING
숲을 삼킨 봄



7.
ORCA'S CLOTHES
오르카의 외투



8.

FLOATING ABOVE THE FRUIT ABOVE THE STONES ABOVE THE FUNGI

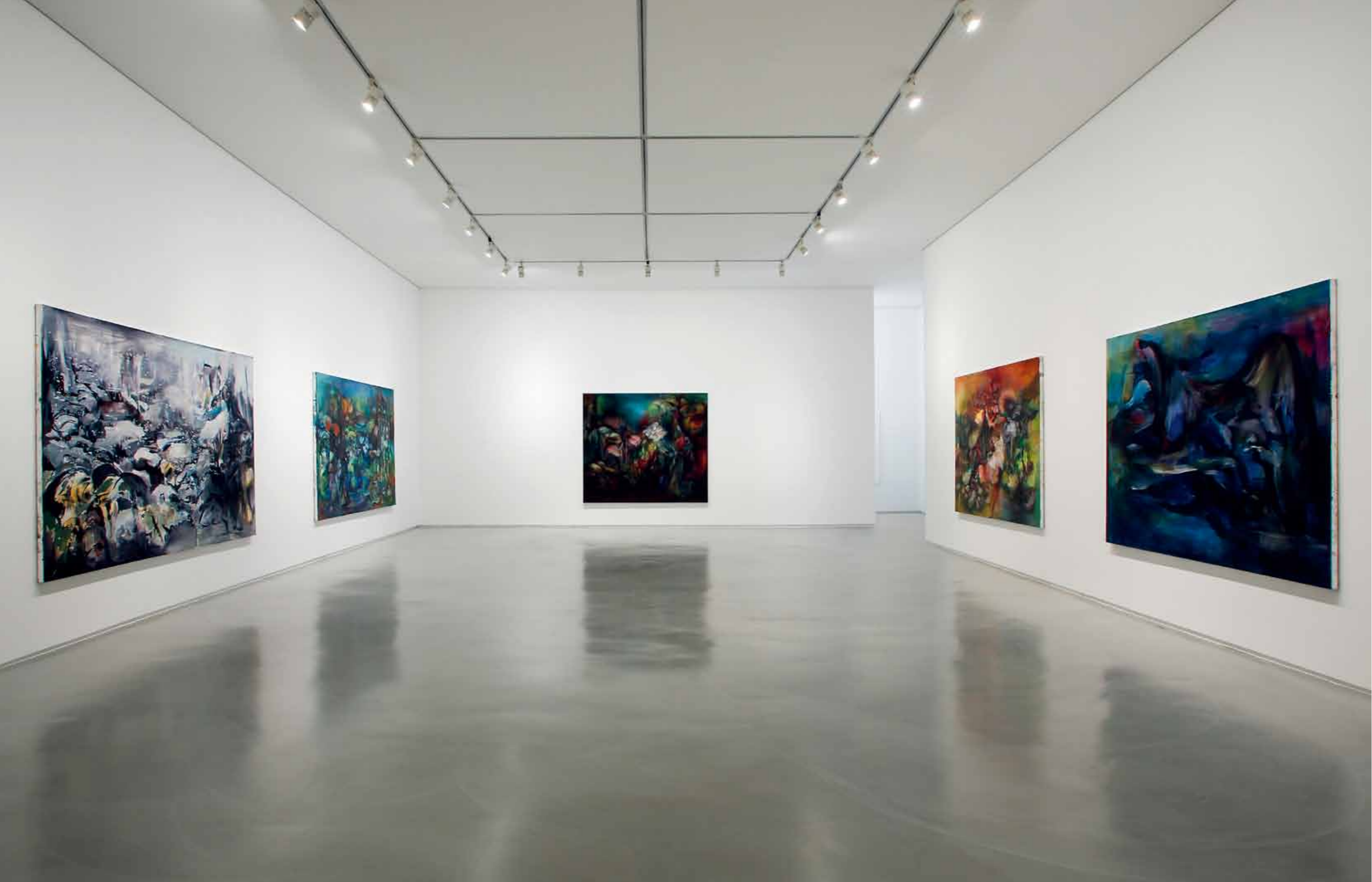
버섯위의 바위위의 열매위의 부유



9.

WE WILL MELT INTO THE LEAVES

낙엽 속 녹는 우리







LIST OF EXHIBITED WORKS

1

VALLEY OF THE RORQUAL

수염고래의 골짜기

2012

oil on canvas

170 x 250 cm



2

RED WIND FOREST

붉은 바람의 숲

2012

oil on canvas

170 x 250 cm



3

SNOWSCAPE

눈 풍경

2012

oil on canvas

170 x 250 cm



4

MOON ON MOSS

이끼위에 핀 달

2012

oil on canvas

170 x 250 cm



5

WHALESCAPE

고래 풍경

2012

oil on canvas

170 x 250 cm



6

FOREST SWALLOWED SPRING

숲을 삼킨 봄

2012

oil on canvas

160 x 200 cm



7

ORCA'S CLOTHES

오르카의 외투

2012

oil on canvas

160 x 200 cm



8

FLOATING ABOVE THE FRUIT ABOVE THE
STONES ABOVE THE FUNGI

버섯위의 바위위의 열매위의 부유

2012

oil on canvas

160 x 200 cm



9

WE WILL MELT INTO THE LEAVES

낙엽 속 녹는 우리

2012

oil on canvas

180 x 200 cm



BIOGRAPHY

Eemyun Kang		Karmic Abstraction, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia, USA		Shanghai, China		AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS	
Born 1981, Busan, Korea				The M.A.& Other Postgraduate Art Show, Atkinson Gallery, Somerset, UK		2009	Royal Academy of Arts Gold Medal
Lives and works in London, UK							Royal Academy of Arts Dunoyer de Segonzac Award
www.eemyun.com		2010	The Mountain Where Whales Once Lived, Union Gallery, London, UK	2008	ConsumeCreate, Henley Exhibition Centre, Henly-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, UK	2008	Sir Frank and Lady Short Award, Royal Academy of Arts
EDUCATION		Bibliothèque: A Library of Folding and Unfolding, Curated by Yoon Youngkyu, KT&G Gallery Sangsangmadang, Seoul, Korea		4482, Korean Contemporary, OXO, Barge House, London, UK		2006-9	Celia Walker Foundation award, Royal Academy Schools
2012	Doctor of Fine Art (DFA), The School of Arts and Digital Industries, UEL, London	The 60 th Commemoration of the Korean War: present from past, Korean Cultural Centre, London, UK		The 38th Parallel, G-spot Showroom, London, UK		2005	Project Award, Slade School
2009	Postgraduate Diploma (MA) in Fine Art, The Royal Academy of Arts, London	Appropriate Modernism, Curated by Ken Pratt, Centrifugal Projects at Trajector Art Fair, Brussels, Belgium		Lock on, Splitter, Reinickendorfer Str.97, Berlin, Germany		2004	Icarus Bursary, Slade School
2006	BA Honours in Fine Art , The Slade School of Fine Art, UCL, London	SeogyoSixty2010: The Imaginary Archive-The gaze of 120, KT&G Gallery Sangsangmadang, Seoul, Korea		Premiums 2008, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK		2003-6	Thomas Scholarship, Slade School
2002	Fine Art Painting and Sculpture, Ewha Woman’s University Seoul, Korea			Good Morning, Mr. Nam June PAIK, Korean Cultural Centre, London, UK		2003	Project Award, Slade School
SOLO EXHIBITIONS							The Old Student Association Trust Scholarship
2012	Fungalland and the Stranded Mother Whale, Trondheim Kunstmuseum, Norway	2009	GIVEITANAME, Vegas Gallery, London, UK	2007	What Can a Desert Island Do, Seventeen Gallery, London UK	2002	Friends’ Programme Hardship Scholarships
2010	Dozing River, Tina Kim Gallery, New York, NY	Cold Cell, Union Gallery at The Old Police Station, London, UK		Influx, Nolia’s Gallery, London , UK			Duveen Bursary, Slade School
TWO PERSON EXHIBITION		Emerging Korean Artists in the World 2009 - U.S.B, Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Centre, Korea		Landscapades: The war on terra?, Undermilkwood Gallery, London, UK		SELECTED COLLECTIONS	
2012	Kyung Jeon · Eemyun Kang, Kukje Gallery, Seoul	Code of Being, Gallery WITHSPACE, Beijing, China		Gussing Exhibition, Gussing, Finsbury Square, London, UK		The Korean Embasssy in London, UK	
GROUP EXHIBITIONS		Crossfields: Young Korean Artists in London, Korean Cultural Centre, London, UK		Painting Music, Sweet ECA, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK		Mizuho International plc London, UK	
2012	Art On Your Wall, artclub 1563, Seoul, Korea	RA Schools Show 2009, London, Royal Academy Schools, London, UK		2004	Art@work, Aylesbury House, London, UK	Ssamzie Space, Seoul, Korea	
	The Sound of the Muse: 6 Artists from London (British Council, Korea Culture Center), Art Sonje Center, Seoul, Korea	Summer Exhibition 2009, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK			Anywhere out of the world, Platform Saab Showroom, London, UK	Ronnie Wood, UK	
	4482:Map the Korea, Barge House, London, UK	Traveling Light, Venice Biennale 2009, London, UK; Venice, Italy			Artskool Paris London Project, Galerie Gauche (École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts), Paris, France		
	As small as a world and large as alone, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea	Eemyun Kang & Ben Pritchard, Cafe Gallery at Royal Academy of Art, London, UK		2003	Collaborate Drawings, Pearson Gallery (UCL), London, UK		
2011-2	My Muse, My London, Korean Cultural Centre, London, UK	Mindscape of the 21st Century, Andrew James Art,			Hibernation, UCL Main Quadrangle, London, UK		
2011	Done Paint Done, The Drawers, London, UK						

This catalog was published to accompany the exhibition
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Eemyun Kang

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