

# KUKJE GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE

## Gala Porras-Kim Solo Exhibition *Conditions for holding a natural form* at Kukje Gallery

Press Conference: September 2, 2025 (Tues.), 11:30am  
Exhibition Dates: September 2–October 26, 2025  
Venue: Kukje Gallery K1

Kukje Gallery is pleased to present Gala Porras-Kim's solo exhibition *Conditions for holding a natural form*, on view in the gallery's K1 space from September 2 to October 26, 2025. Porras-Kim's work interrogates how cultural institutions organize their collections, focusing especially on those classification systems that shape how objects are produced, perceived, and preserved. Her work poignantly reveals the mechanisms that underlie conventional museological practices and proposes methods for recognizing the multiple functions and histories of cultural objects. In her first exhibition with Kukje Gallery, Porras-Kim presents two groups of drawings that explore abstraction and the ways human-constructed categories are applied to naturally-occurring and organic forms.

The front room of K1 is dedicated to five works titled *Signal*, each drawing made in collaboration with nature. While most museums and art institutions strictly regulate humidity as a means to preserve objects, Porras-Kim actively incorporates this element into her process to generate spontaneous "signals." Produced in various locations around the world since 2021, each *Signal* is created from a work known as *Forecasting Signal* (2021–ongoing), which uses a suspended fabric soaked with graphite and an industrial dehumidifier that collects and releases moisture from the interior environment for the duration of an exhibition. The moisture drips through the fabric, forming patterns on panels placed on the gallery floor. The resulting works reflect environmental factors—including climate, season, and visitor traffic—while also capturing the invisible vitality of the exhibition space in abstract forms.

In the rear room of K1 are six drawings based on *suseok*, also referred to as viewing stones or scholar's stones. These unique stones are widely collected in Korea, China, and Japan and praised for their rare natural beauty. In this new body of work, Porras-Kim builds on her long-standing research into how stones serve as cultural and historical artifacts across different civilizations. The artist was particularly intrigued by the detailed criteria and classification systems developed around *suseok*—conditions shaped by human perceptual habits and aesthetic traditions—which she explored and reinterpreted in the work.

In the exhibition, the artist presents a series of new, non-traditional categories and groupings such as "balanced stones," "extraterrestrial stones," "sacred stones," and "animal-shaped stones." The works bring together images of existing stone formations, reimagined in the shape and scale of personal collections, to highlight the ways we see and appreciate each stone's distinctive features. The series continues what Porras-Kim refers to as "index drawings," which work through ideas of organizing structures that shape contemporary interpretations of historical artifacts. The format for these drawings is inspired by *chaekgeori*, a Korean genre of still life that depicts stacks of books, valuable items, and scholarly accoutrements—a form of display which she re-employs as a means to draw attention toward objects and how their meaning is shaped through collecting practices. This series takes the form of meticulous drawings, and the method of their construction encourages the artist and viewers to slow the gaze and observe the distinctive details of each object.

As part of the exhibition, the artist invited *suseok* collectors to showcase their own collections. Each unique stone is accompanied by a message from the collector sharing stories about the object's significance. In doing so, the artist initiates a dialogue between the drawings and the stones—one that reveals the interpretive and personal conditions that shape our recognition of abstract and ancient forms.

### About the Artist

Gala Porras-Kim (b. 1984) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work interrogates institutional frameworks and classification systems that shape how objects are collected, perceived, and interpreted. Her research-based practice engages with collecting and conservation practices, as a means to address the objects' various modes of being as well as changing definitions that impact their interpretation. Through drawings, sculptures, and installations, the artist unsettles conventional museology and proposes alternative models—ones that are responsive to natural forces and the ontological complexity of cultural materials.

Porras-Kim has had solo exhibitions at institutions including the Carnegie Museum of Art (2025); Museum of Contemporary Art Denver (2024); Leeum Museum of Art and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul (2023). She has also participated in group exhibitions at numerous institutions across the globe, including the 34th São Paulo Biennial (2021); the 13th Gwangju Biennale (2021); the Whitney Biennial, New York

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(2019); Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2017); and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2016). Her work is included in the collections of the Seoul Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate Modern, London; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others. Porras-Kim lives and works between London and Los Angeles.



**Gala Porras-Kim (b. 1984)**

*Signal (Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo 03/09/23-09/03/23)*

2023

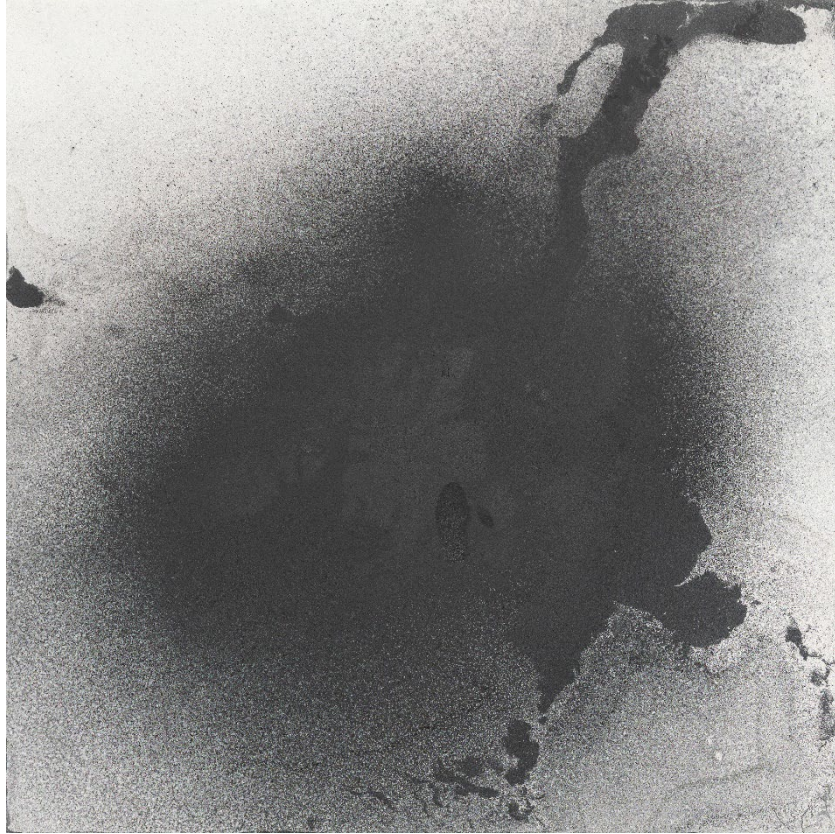
Graphite on gessoed panel

182.9 x 182.9 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery

Photo: Chunho An

Image provided by Kukje Gallery



**Gala Porras-Kim (b. 1984)**

*Signal (Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver 03/08/24-09/01/24)*  
2024

Graphite on gessoed panel  
182.9 x 182.9 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery

Photo: Chunho An

Image provided by Kukje Gallery



**Gala Porras-Kim (b. 1984)**

*6 Balanced stones*

2025

Colored pencil and Flashe on paper

152.4 x 182.9 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery

Photo: Gala Porras-Kim Studio

Image provided by Kukje Gallery



**Gala Porras-Kim (b. 1984)**

*15 Rocks from outer space*  
2025

Colored pencil and Flashe on paper  
182.9 x 228.6 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery

Photo: Gala Porras-Kim Studio

Image provided by Kukje Gallery

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