

## KUKJE GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE

### Group Exhibition *A Faraway Today* at Kukje Gallery

Exhibition Dates: June 4–July 20, 2025

Venue: Kukje Gallery *Hanok*

Kukje Gallery is pleased to present *A Faraway Today*, a group exhibition on view at the gallery's *Hanok* space from June 4 to July 20, 2025. The exhibition examines how traditions continue to evolve and transform our present-day reality, and how inherited legacies from the past encounter languages of contemporary art. The exhibition title, *A Faraway Today*, suggests this temporality of tradition—something that is “distant yet near,” or “dim yet still lingering.” It gestures toward modes of tradition that lie outside institutional frameworks while offering a space for reflection through their resonance with the *Hanok* setting.

Kukje Gallery's *Hanok* is a renovated traditional Korean house originally built in the 1930s, where contemporary art and historic architecture coexist. In this exhibition, the *Hanok* space is not treated merely as a neutral backdrop, but as a living interactive structure that actively engages with both the viewer's senses and the artworks on view. Each participating artist reconstructs forms, materials, and concepts rooted in the past using different media and sensibilities, questioning what inherited forms and meanings convey today within the language of contemporary visual culture.

Curated by artist Park Chan-kyong—who has worked extensively as a film director, curator, and writer—the exhibition reflects his longstanding interest in tradition, folk belief, and Korean modernity. Beginning his practice in the mid-1990s, Park explored the psychological landscapes shaped by Korea's division and the Cold War. His subsequent work has critically examined how Korean modernity inherited and redefined traditional idioms through the legacies of colonialism and modernization. Rather than romanticizing the past, he focuses on recontextualizing these vernacular practices within the shifting dynamics of globalization and postcolonial discourse in the contemporary moment.

The five participating artists—Kim Beom, IM Youngzoo, Cho Hyun Taek, Choe Sooryeon, and Choi Yun—use painting, drawing, installation, object, and video to explore the lived experience of this “distance” and trace the emotional residue left by the fading images and remnants of the past. Their works provide a critical lens through which we can reflect on the blind spots of modernity.

Rather than aiming to restore a romanticized antiquity, *A Faraway Today* explores how the sensory presence of these traditions resurface—suddenly and unexpectedly—within the flow of the present. The exhibition goes beyond nostalgia or traditionalist sentiment, revealing how contemporary art calls upon and modulates the language of tradition anew. It resists institutional domestication, instead bringing forth the unresolved, untamed vitality of what tradition might still become.

#### About the Artists

**Kim Beom** (b. 1963) subverts the conventions and absurdities embedded in objects, language, and systems through humor and irony. His wide-ranging practice spans from painting, drawing, sculpture, video to artist's books, and questions the fundamental conditions of perception and knowledge. Kim earned a B.F.A. in painting from Seoul National University and an M.F.A. in painting from the School of Visual Arts in New York. His solo exhibitions include *How to become a rock* (Leeum Museum of Art, 2023), *Water from Ganges River in the Cup Made with Newspaper from Congo* (Kunsthal Aarhus, 2019), *Kim Beom* (Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, 2015), *Kim Beom: The School of Inversion* (Hayward Gallery, London, 2012) and *Kim Beom: Objects Being Taught They Are Nothing But Tools* (Cleveland Museum of Art, 2010). He has participated in major exhibitions including Taipei Biennial (2023), Sharjah Biennial (2015), Gwangju Biennale (2012), Media

Group Exhibition *A Faraway Today* at Kukje Gallery

City Seoul (2010), and the Venice Biennale (2005), and is the recipient of the Hermès Foundation Missulsang and the Suk Nam Art Prize.

**IM Youngzoo** (b. 1982) examines how superstition, mythology, and irrationality are formed and absorbed within Korean society, connecting these phenomena to contemporary technological systems to explore sensory ruptures. Working with video, installation, and publications, she weaves surreal narratives that reveal how irrational beliefs operate and the underlying psychology behind them. IM earned a B.F.A. and completed her master's degree, both in painting from Hongik University. She is selected as one of the four finalists for the MMCA's Korea Artist Prize 2025 and participated in the Amant Studio & Research Program in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include *Mi-ryeon* (Perigee Gallery, 2024) and *LiDAR LiDAR, Lead Me to My Grave* (Seoul Art Space Geumcheon, 2023). She has also exhibited in group exhibitions at Oil Tank Culture Park (2023), Ludwig Museum Koblenz (2023), Art Sonje Center (2021), Busan Museum of Contemporary Art (2021), and Ilmin Museum of Art (2021). Her work is included in the collections of Seoul Museum of Art, Busan Museum of Contemporary Art, and Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art.

**Cho Hyun Taek** (b. 1982) explores strange and marginal Korean landscapes, uncovering remnants of folk religion and mythical beliefs in the borderlands between urban and rural spaces. Using photography, he captures shamanistic statues and traces of belief accumulated over time, recontextualizing them within a contemporary frame. Cho earned a B.F.A. in photography and imaging from Dongshin University and studied aesthetics and art history in the master's coursework at Chosun University. He has participated in residencies including the Gyeonggi Creation Center and the Gwangju Museum of Art Beijing Creative Center. His solo exhibitions include *Vacant Room* (Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, 2025), *Stone Market* (Space 22, Seoul, 2024), *House and Wall* (Art Space Areum, Suwon, 2022), and he has participated in exhibitions at the Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art (2024), Gwangju Museum of Art (2022), and Gwangju Biennale (2021). His works are in the collections of the MMCA Government Art Bank, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Gwangju Museum of Art, and Jeonnam Museum of Art.

**Choe Sooryeon** (b. 1986) critically engages with clichéd orientalist imagery and the contradictions of pseudo-traditional aesthetics in the present. By combining materials from Western painting with East Asian techniques, and layering her surfaces with calligraphic transcriptions of East Asian myths, her paintings disassemble binary distinctions and evoke an uneasy mythic time. Choe earned a B.F.A. in painting from Hongik University and completed her M.F.A. coursework at Seoul National University. She has participated in residences including the SeMA Nanji Residency, Incheon Art Platform, and Cheongju Art Studio. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Hoe for painted and Hwa for painting* (Gallery Chosun, 2023), *Drawing in the Fog* (Sansumunhwa, 2020), and *Pictures for Use and Pleasure* (Incheon Art Platform, 2020). She has participated in group exhibitions at Museumhead (2023), Incheon Art Platform (2021), Seoul Museum of Art (2016), and HITE Collection (2015). Her work is held in the collections of Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul National University Museum of Art, and the MMCA Government Art Bank.

**Choi Yun** (b. 1989) captures images drifting across the cultural landscape between mass media, folk materiality, and kitsch. Through various mediums including ceramics, installation, objects, and video, she examines collective emotion and subverts conventional notions of popular taste. A graduate of Korea National University of Arts with a B.F.A. and an M.F.A. in Fine Art, she participated in the artist-in-residence programs at the European Ceramic Work Centre (EKWC) and Rijksakademie. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Lounge* (CALM - Centre d'Art La Meute, Switzerland, 2023), *Running at the Speed of Light, the Body Becomes a Turtle* (LUX, London, 2022), and *Hanaco, Yunyunchoi, Choi Yun Solo Exhibition* (Art Sonje Center, 2017). Her work has been shown in group exhibitions at Leeum Museum of Art (2024), Seoul Museum of Art (2023), National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (2021), and Asia Culture Center (2020). Her work is in the collections of Seoul Museum of Art and Busan Museum of Contemporary Art.



**Kim Beom (b. 1963)**

*Weird Stone*

2022

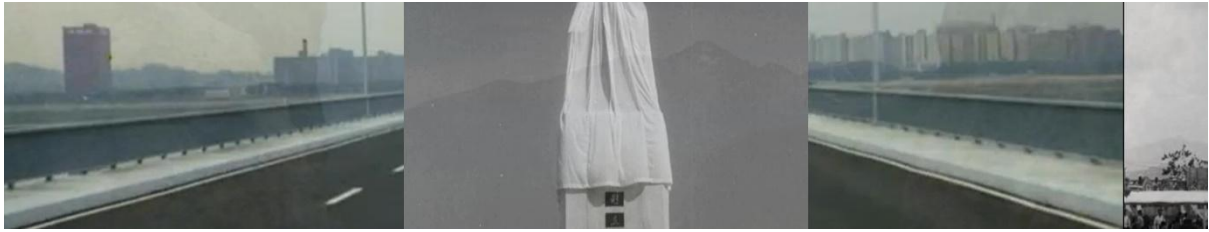
Ink on paper, wooden frame

95.5 x 47.3 cm

Courtesy of the artist

Image provided by Kukje Gallery

Group Exhibition *A Faraway Today* at Kukje Gallery



**IM Youngzoo (b. 1982)**

*Princess Yoseok*

2018

Three-channel video, color, sound (stereo)

43 min. 10 sec.

Courtesy of the artist

Image provided by Kukje Gallery



**Cho Hyun Taek (b. 1982)**

*Busts in Ruin*

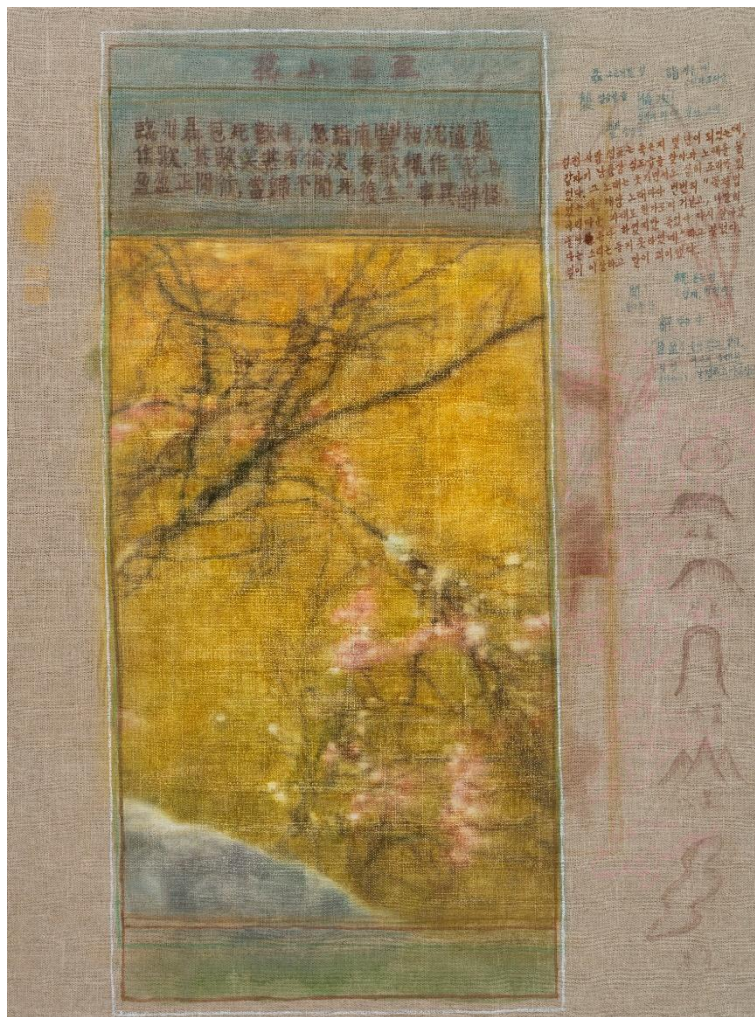
2024

Digital pigment print

72 x 140 cm

Courtesy of the artist

Image provided by Kukje Gallery



**Choe Sooryeon (b. 1986)**

*Strange Song of Nie Bao*

2025

Watercolor, oil, silver ink on linen

130 x 97 cm

Courtesy of the artist

Image provided by Kukje Gallery

Group Exhibition *A Faraway Today* at Kukje Gallery





**Choi Yun (b. 1989)**

*SamsungTVGalaxy46"*

2023–2024

Ceramics fired at variable kiln soaking duration, copper wires, coins, various metal pieces and metal oxides

Approx. 101.5 x 57.1 x 1.5 cm

Courtesy of the artist

Image provided by Kukje Gallery

The above press release is **under embargo** until the **opening of the exhibition**.  
Copyright and credit line **must be placed adjacent to or near** the reproduced images.  
Images may be used solely during the relevant exhibition period for promotional purposes only,  
and **may not be edited** without prior permission.

High-resolution images are available for download via Webhard.  
WWW.WEBHARD.NET | ID: kukjegallery | PW: kukje

**KUKJE GALLERY** | COMMUNICATIONS  
T +82 2 3210 9807 | [press@kukjegallery.com](mailto:press@kukjegallery.com)

## KUKJE GALLERY

54 SAMCHEONG-RO, JONGNO-GU SEOUL, 03053 KOREA  
T + 82 2 735 8449 | F + 82 2 733 4879 | [WWW.KUKJEGALLERY.COM](http://WWW.KUKJEGALLERY.COM)