

Renovated Hamburger Kunsthalle Opens with Haegue Yang Exhibition

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"The Intermediate – Pungmul Ball," 2016, by Haegue Yang

South Korean artist Haegue Yang becomes the first artist to be featured at the newly modernized Hamburger Kunsthalle with her new exhibition "Quasi-Pagan Serial," scheduled to run through April 30, 2017.

The exhibition, which will be held in the newly reopened ground floor, will feature 17 works from the artist's career that address "the way concepts of 'folk' continue to play out in material culture," according to a press release from the museum.

The four most recent works in the exhibition focus the most on this contrast between "folk" and "material culture," traditional and modern. These sculptures take the form of organic shapes, made out of seemingly natural ingredients like straw, plants and twine. Looking closer, however, the works are entirely artificial, made out of plastic approximations of these traditional materials like artificial plants and even fake straw. They are also on castors like those found on office furniture in a further surreal modernization style.

Also on display will be her work "Sol LeWitt Upside Down – Cube Structure Based on Five Modules, Expanded 186 Times #93-C," 2016, which reimagines American artist Sol LeWitt's open-ended cubes using window blinds.

In addition to investigating “the way industry impacts contemporary society,” the works, especially the straw sculptures seem like an apt choice to reopen the Kunsthalle; after all, the designers of the newly renovated space too had to modernize while also remaining true to the tradition of the building, not changing its outside silhouette from that established in 1869 while allowing the museum to be functional for centuries to come.

“Haegue Yang: Quasi-Pagan Serial” runs through April 30, 2017 at Hamburger Kunsthalle

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