

Julian Opie Opens New Show in Seoul

By Darryl Wee

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Julian Opie, *Walking in Sadang-dong in the rain*, 2014, vinyl on wooden stretcher, 230x344.3cm
(Image provided by Kukje Gallery, courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery)

SEOUL — Renowned British artist, **Julian Opie**, opens a one-man exhibition of new works inspired by the frenetic, materialistic urban life of the South Korean capital at his longtime Asian dealer [Kukje Gallery](#) on February 13.

Encompassing vinyl paintings, animated LED panels, and massive sculptural pieces, the exhibition will fill the cavernous space of Kukje's K2 and K3 galleries with an assemblage that evokes the distinctive thrum of contemporary urban life, with elements that are specifically conceived as a homage to the city of Seoul.

Opie's well-known series of vinyl paintings, which have been shorn of extraneous detail and subject to a spare, rigorous process that reduces human figures and faces to their minimal limits, are out in full force here. For this second exhibition with Kukje, he has created a series of new paintings, depicting pedestrians, shoppers, and commuters in downtown Seoul as they circulate frantically on the city's streets and markets.

Adjacent to these frieze-like Seoul sequences are animated LED panels capturing similar scenes in London that eschew color for a more austere black-and-white representation of the anonymous, almost particle-like movements of Londoners going about their everyday routines.

Perhaps of more interest to longtime fans of the British artist, however, is a new body of work consisting of massive resin sculptures of human heads, painted in the same carefully tempered palette as his vinyl paintings. Recalling the more roughly hewn aesthetic of Neolithic totems, these sculptures offer a counterpoint to the more streamlined, spare aesthetic of his painted portraits.

Julian Opie's exhibition runs at Kukje Gallery in Seoul from February 13 through March 23.

URL: <http://enkr.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1008004/julian-opie-opens-new-show-in-seoul>