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art

# Almanac 2015

NEWS CULTURAL CURRENCY FIVE PLUS ONE  
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 EU €20 GB £16  
 HK \$195 JP ¥3000  
 KR ₩43000 NZ \$33  
 SG \$33 US \$25

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VOLUME X



Installation view of **SUNG HWAN KIM**'s "Life of Always a Mirror" at Artsonje Center, Seoul, 2014. Courtesy the artist and Artsonje Center.

rose petals, frog statuettes and coral-colored helium balloons, each delicately anchored by a single coin. The gallery also held the debut exhibition of media artist Taeyoon Kim (10/17–11/16), who combines repetitive and random images and sound to create works that spatialize the notion of time.

**Gallery EM**, opened in 2007 and located in Cheongdam-dong of the Gangnam district, is one of the youngest spaces devoted to emerging Korean artists. Its 2014 exhibitions included Min Joon Park's illustrations depicting his preoccupation with the cycle of life and death (2/13–3/15), Si Yeon Kim's photographs and installations characterizing the emptiness of everyday life felt by many housewives in Korea (6/12–7/12), Jae Yong Rhee's accumulation of numerous images of the same objects taken at different times (10/16–11/8) and Singaporean artist Heman Chong's debut exhibition in Korea (8/21–9/27), which was produced in parallel to his participation in the Gwangju Biennale.

Other notable gallery exhibitions included Rosa Loy's paintings of working women at **Gallery Baton** (11/29–1/24/15), Carlos Rolon's (aka DZine) mirror paintings and sculptures at **Leeahn Gallery Seoul** (3/12–4/26) and mixed-media artist Yangachi's first solo exhibition in five years at **Hakgojae Gallery** (6/20–7/27).

One third of the country's galleries are registered with the **Galleries Association of Korea**, which also runs the 13-year-old **Korea International Art Fair (KIAF)**. In 2014, KIAF attracted 88,000 visitors and 186 participating galleries from 22 countries (9/25–29). The total sales, at USD 22 million, were slightly higher than the previous year. Although the fair attracted a younger

crowd of buyers, it lacked the attendance of established collectors.

Alternative spaces complement the strong museum and gallery infrastructure. Though some operate only as temporary pop-up venues, others have remained open for more than a decade through government and private support. **Project Space Sarubia**, a nonprofit initiative established in 1999, held solo exhibitions by young multimedia artist Lee Wan (3/7–4/5) and painter Jaemin Jang (5/2–31). Also founded in 1999 is the artist-run **Pool**. The cultural workspace Ccuull, Pool's first collaborative project started in



**CHUNG CHANG-SUP**, *Return One H*, 1977, mixed media on canvas, 163 x 111.5 cm, as part of "The Art of Tansaekhwa" at Kukje Gallery, Seoul. Courtesy the artist and Kukje Gallery.

2010 and run by artist Choi Jeong-Hwa, had closed in 2013 but reopened as the **Amado Art Space/Lab (AASL)**. In May, AASL held its inaugural Amado Photography Award and a solo exhibition of winner Lee Hyunmoo (5/19–6/17). The space also presented "Sex + Guilty Pleasure" (10/6–11/6), a group show of sex-themed art featuring nine Korean artists.

**Loop**, also established in 1999, organized a solo show of multimedia artist Kim Sang Jin (9/26–10/26) and hosted the seventh edition of its annual video art exhibition "Move on Asia" (2/13–3/21), with participating artists Halil Altındere, Fei Jun and Daum Kim, among others.

The nonprofit **Insa Art Space (IAS)**, run by the **Arko Art Center**, has been committed to showing emerging artists since its reopening in 2012. For 2014, IAS presented five, month-long solo exhibitions, decided by an open competition.

The two-year-old **Space: Willing N Dealing** presented Donghyun Son's portraits of pop-culture icons depicted in a traditional, oriental-painting style (10/24–11/13) and Jongwan Jang's multimedia works that convey the conflict between the idealistic future imagined by the artist and the reality in which he lives (4/12–5/2).

South Korean artists were widely exhibited abroad this year. In particular was the resurgence of Tansaekhwa, or the Korean Monochrome Movement. "Overcoming the Modern" (2/19–3/29), at New York's Alexander Gray Associates, showcased artists from the movement, including Chung Sang-hwa, Ha Chong-hyun, Hur Hwang and Lee Ufan. In Los Angeles, Blum & Poe brought over 35 paintings for Tansaekhwa's first major overview in North America (9/13–11/8). Galerie Perrotin featured recent works by Tansaekhwa-artist Park Seo-bo (11/6–12/20), who now makes boldly colorful paintings.

Other notable international exhibitions included "Follies, Manifold: Gabriel Lester-Haegue Yang" (9/23–11/23) at the Bonner Kunstverein in Bonn, Germany; Lee Bul (9/10–11/9) at Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, United Kingdom; Lee Seung-taek's presentation at London's Frieze Masters and Frieze Sculpture Park (10/15–18); and Do-Ho Suh's room-filling fabric installations at Contemporary Austin (9/20–1/11/15).

Looking ahead to 2015, Haegue Yang will present a solo exhibition at the Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art in February, and at UCCA Beijing, in October. That same month in the United States, Chosil Kil will present a new site-specific installation at the Dallas Museum of Art, and London- and Seoul-based curator Sookyung Lee will organize Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho's exhibition in the Korea Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in May.

JAYOON CHOI