



Interchange, 2014, mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper, 75 x 86 cm (29 1/2 x 33 7/8 in.).

Minjung Kim

19 December 2023 – 28 January 2024
(closed 24, 25, 26 December, 1 January)
Open daily, 12 noon – 6 pm

Forum Paracelsus, Piazza Paracelsus, 7500 St. Moritz, Switzerland

Robilant+Voena is pleased to announce an exhibition of works by the Korean artist Minjung Kim, taking place at the Forum Paracelsus, St. Moritz. This is the artist's second solo show with R+V, following a successful exhibition in 2019, also in St. Moritz.

Set in the serene and newly restored galleries of the Forum Paracelsus, the historic site of the mineral-rich springs that has made St. Moritz a destination for travellers across the centuries, the forthcoming exhibition offers visitors a journey through Kim's key works from the last ten years. With examples of her most celebrated series, including *Mountain* and *Street*, the paintings in the exhibition have been carefully selected by the artist to reflect and complement the immense beauty of the surrounding Engadin region.

As the artist explains:

"I hope that my artworks resonate harmoniously with the serenity, purity, and clarity of nature. Nature brings immense pleasure to the human body in St. Moritz, and I have endeavored to capture and reflect this instant connection with the vastness of the surroundings."

Exploring the interconnectedness of Eastern and Western art practices, Kim's ink paintings often incorporate elements of cutting, burning and gluing the paper. These creative acts imbue her works with spatial and temporal dimensions, infusing her works with a dual sense of continuity and gradual change, themes that are particularly pertinent to the Swiss mountain environment where the exhibition is located.

Her early artistic education in her native Korea honed her understanding and mastery of traditional techniques such as calligraphy and brush painting; in her early adulthood, her curiosity led her to study Western art while living in Italy, developing a particular fascination with European and American abstract painters of the twentieth century, including Lucio Fontana, Alberto Burri, Paul Klee and Franz Kline. In her contemporary practice, Kim synthesises elements of the Eastern and Western traditions, giving life to ink paintings that seem to pulsate with a delicate balance of formal and process-based qualities.

Several of the paintings in the exhibition reflect and refract the beauty that may be experienced elsewhere in the natural environment of St. Moritz; three examples from her *Mountain* series evoke the peaceful infinity of these giants, Kim's delicate and instinctive layering of successive washes of ink building a compelling rhythm. The artist's meticulous process of burning and layering mulberry Hanji paper is encapsulated in the twisting, flowing form of *The Water* (2021) and *Timeless* (2019), the latter composed of slender strips of the paper from a *Mountain* artwork, burnt then layered, always preserving the initial gradient of its previous form; while the bold contrasts of *Petal* (2017) suggest the balance of the absolute and the ephemeral. Three contrasting paintings from *The Street* series show the artist's constantly evolving investigations into the balance of process and formal qualities, informed by her cross-cultural experiences.



Timeless, 2019, mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper, 125 x 88.5 cm (49 1/4 x 34 7/8 in.)

Coinciding with R+V's exhibition of female Old Master artists in New York, entitled *Ahead of her Time*, this exhibition of works by Minjung Kim reflects the gallery's ongoing ambition to give prominence to accomplished female artists, both historic and contemporary. Uniting key examples of Kim's extraordinary method of blending not only Eastern and Western techniques, but their philosophies, the exhibition offers a moment of calm, and sublime appreciation of the ceaseless rhythm and interconnectedness of things.



The Street, 2022, mixed media on mulberry Hanji paper, 140 x 140 cm (55 1/8 x 55 1/8 in.).

Minjung Kim (b. 1962) was born in Gwangju, Republic of Korea. From an early age, Kim was encouraged by her family to pursue her artistic inclination, studying under various teachers including the famed watercolorist Yeongyun Kang. Between the ages of thirteen and twenty-nine, she also studied Oriental calligraphy. In 1980, she enrolled at Hongik University in Seoul, and in 1985 completed a Masters at the same university, with a thesis on the four basic materials in ink painting (mulberry Hanji paper, brush, ink pigment and the pigment grinding stone).

Kim moved to Milan in the late 1980s, curious to learn more about the Western artistic tradition, and graduated from the Brera Academy of Fine Art in 1991. After graduating, the artist lived and worked in Italy for over 35 years, showing her works internationally, including in Italy, Switzerland, China, England, USA, and Israel. Particularly noteworthy was the recognition Kim gained through with the exhibition *The Light, The Shade, The Depth* held in Palazzo Caboto during the Venice Biennale in 2015.

She has exhibited at prominent worldwide museums and galleries, such as Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey, USA (2020); Hill Art Foundation, New York, USA (2020); Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany (2019); Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju, Korea (2018); Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Nice, France (2017); Hermès Foundation, Singapore (2017); OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea (2015); Palazzo Caboto, Venice, Italy (2015); Oko, New York, USA (2014); Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy (2014); MACRO (Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma), Rome, Italy (2012); the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK (2008); Guanshanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen, China (2007); Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio, Turin, Italy (2006); and Museo Comunale d'Arte Moderna Ascona, Ascona, Switzerland (2003). She also participated in the Gwangju Biennale (2004, 2018, 2023).

Her work is represented in numerous international public collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA; British Museum, London, UK; Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea; Fundación Helga de Alvear, Cáceres, Spain; Swiss Re Art Collection, Zürich, Switzerland; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, New York, USA; Asia Society Museum, New York, USA; Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio, Turin, Italy; OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea; and UniCredit Art Collection, Milan, Italy.

Kim currently lives and works between France and the United States.

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Notes to editors

Robilant+Voena is a partnership of art dealers Edmondo di Robilant and Marco Voena. They launched R+V in London in 2004. Further gallery spaces were opened in Milan in 2009, and Paris and New York in 2020. R+V has distinguished itself as one of the leading international art dealers in Old Master paintings, as well as 20th-century Italian art.

The gallery has sold paintings and works of art to many important private and royal collectors and museums including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, the Gallerie dell'Accademia Venice, the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery London, the National Gallery of Stockholm, the Museum of Western Art Tokyo, and the Pinacoteca di Brera Milan. Robilant+Voena is represented at the most prestigious fine art fairs in the world, and is committed to its active exhibitions program and the publication of books and scholarly catalogues.

Current and upcoming exhibitions

R+V, London: *Daniel Ambrosi. AI and the Landscapes of Capability Brown*, 6 October – 15 December 2023

R+V, New York: *Harumi Klossowska de Rola: Hayawan*, 20 October – 22 November 2023

R+V, New York: *Ahead of her Time: Pioneering Women from the Renaissance to the Twentieth Century*, 5 December 2023 – 10 February 2024