

## Yun Hyong-Keun

**1928**

Yun Hyong-Keun is born in Miwon-ri, Cheongwon-gun, Chungcheonbuk-do, Korea. He was the third of six children of his mother Im-Deuk Suh and his father Yong-Han Yun, who was a government official.

**1945**

Yun graduates from the Cheongju Commercial High School, and receives an art training from Seung-Gak Ahn and Dong-Myeong Oh.

**1947**

Yun enrolls at the Fine Arts Department at the Seoul National University. The head of department was Whanki Kim who later became a professor of the Hongik University and also Yun's father-in-law.

**1949**

Yun is detained in Seoul Jungbu Police Station for 42 days for involvement in a national anti-establishment movement. Yun takes a leave of absence from the Seoul National University. Yun is appointed as an art instructor at the Cheongju Girls' Commercial High School.

**1950**

The same year the Korean War is breaking out, Yun makes living paintings portraits on the US Army base until 1957, thus supporting this family and providing university tuitions for his three younger siblings.

**1957**

Bachelor Degree of Fine Arts in Painting at the College of Fine Arts and Design, Hongik University, Seoul.

**1959**

Yun persistently requests to return to his studies at the Seoul National University, but permission is denied. Yun later enrolls at and graduates from the Fine Arts Department of Hongik University, with the help of Whanki Kim. Yun meets Kim's eldest daughter Young Suk Kim who was also a student of the Hongik University. They married in 1960.

**1961**

Yun participates in his first group exhibition *Group of Engagement* at the Information Center Gallery in Seoul following a suggestion of fellow painter Yong Yop Hwang.

**1966**

Yun's son is born, Seong-Ryeol Yun.

**1969**

Yun is included in the 10<sup>th</sup> São Paulo Biennale with a recommendation from Yil Lee, who was the commissioner for the Korean Pavilion and became a close friend of Yun.

**1973**

Yun resigns from his teaching post at Sookmyung Girls' High School, where he worked as an art teacher for many years and now delves into this art work full-time. He developed his unique style of his *Umber-Blue* paintings.

**1974**

Yun's father-in-law Whanki Kim passes away in New York.

**1974-1979**

The group exhibition *Independents* is held at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul.

**1976**

Yun's first international solo exhibition is held at Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo. His work is now officially introduced in the modern art scene in Japan.

**1976-1986**

The group exhibition *Ecole de Seoul* is held at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul.

**1978**

Yun has a solo exhibition at Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, for which Lee Ufan writes a laudatory essay for the exhibition catalogue. Yun's work receives positive reviews from Nakahara Yusuke, the most acclaimed art critic of that time. The same year, Yun is awarded the Fifth Korean Fine Art Grand-Prix.

**1980–1982**

Yun lives and works in Paris with his wife Young Suk Kim, where he also meets Tschang-Yeul Kim, Sang-Hwa Chung and Guiline Kim.

**1983**

Yun builds and moves into his own home and studio in Seogyo-dong in Seoul.

**1984**

Yun is appointed professor at the Fine Arts Department of the Kyungwon University.

**1986**

Yun has a solo exhibition at the Inkong Gallery in Daegu.  
His son enrolls at the Department of Painting of the Hongik University.

**1989**

Yun's solo exhibition opens at Inkong Gallery in Seoul.

**1990**

Yun wins the First Cultural Award of the Kim Swoo Geun Foundation

**1990–1992**

Yun is appointed as chancellor of the Kyungwon University.

**1991**

Yun meets Donald Judd for the first time at Inkong Gallery, Seoul, the latter expressing high praise for Yun's characteristic simple structural work.

**1992**

Yun participates in the group exhibition *Working with Nature: Traditional Thought in Contemporary Art from Korea* at Tate Liverpool, along with Seo-Bo Park, Chang-Sup Chung, Chong-Hyun Ha and Kangso Lee.

**1993**

Solo exhibitions are held at the Judd Foundation in New York, and at Locks Gallery in Philadelphia



Yun Hyong-Keun with Donald Judd at the Donald Judd Foundation in New York, 1993. © Judd Foundation / Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

#### 1994

Yun has a solo exhibition at the Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas. This exhibition of twenty paintings was the last one Donald Judd selected for the Chinati museum and was first shown at Judd's in New York, before travelling to Marfa.

#### 1995

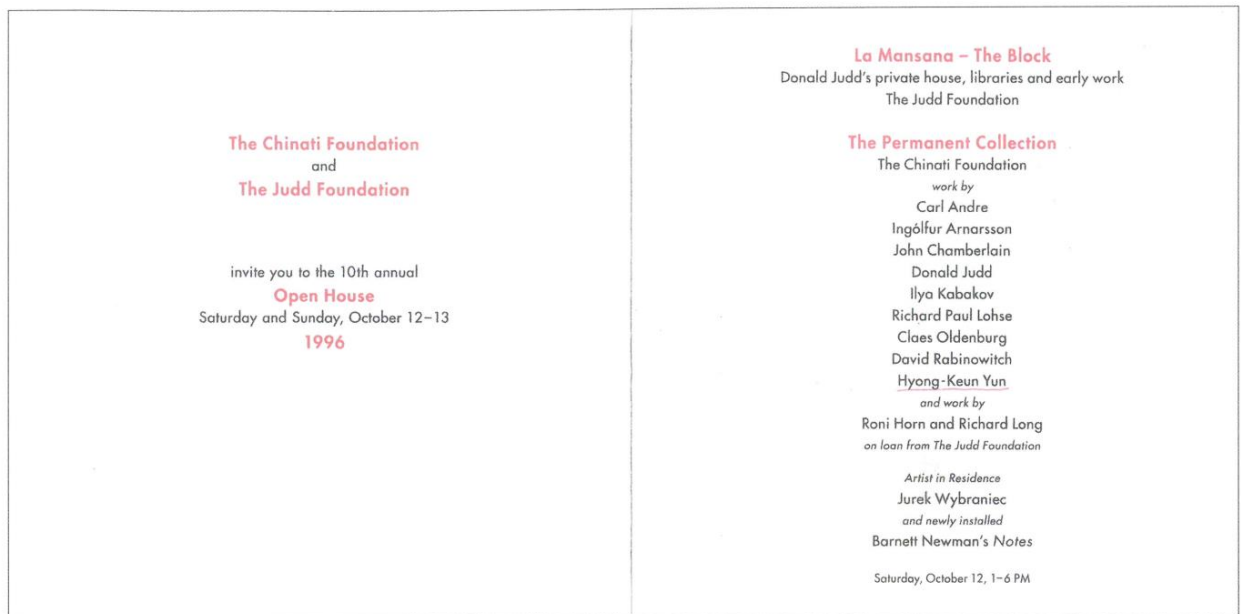
Yun is invited to participate in the inaugural exhibition of the Korean Pavilion at the 46<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale.



Left: Yun (center) with his wife (right) and Nam June Paik (left) at the Venice Biennale in 1995. Right: Yun in front of his paintings in Korean Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Venice, 1995.

1996

The Chinati Foundation and The Judd Foundation organize a group show uniting Yun and other important international artists.



Invitation for the group exhibition *The Permanent Collection*, The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House, The Chinati Foundation and The Judd Foundation, 1996.

1997

Yun made a generously gift to the Chinati Foundation after Judd's death. Three of Yun's paintings were regularly exhibited at the Chinati. Yun has a solo exhibition at the Stiftung für Konkrete Kunst in Reutlingen, Germany. Yun's grandson Duk Jun Yun is born, the child of Seong-Ryeol Yun and Min Joo Sihn, also a fellow graduate student of the Hongik University, later a teacher assistant.



Installation view of Hyong-Keun Yun's solo exhibition at Stiftung für Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen, Germany, 1997.



Yun with his son in the 1970s.

**2001**

Another solo exhibition opens at the Art Sonje Museum in Gyeongju.

**2002**

For three months Yun is living and working in Paris during the preparation of his solo show at Galerie Jean Brolly.

**2006**

Yun gets diagnosed with colon cancer and undergoes surgery.

**2007**

Suffering a relapse of colon cancer, Yun passes away on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December in in Seoul.

**2018**

Yun gets honoured with a major retrospective at the MMCA National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea.

## Exhibition history – selected solo exhibitions

### 2018

*Yun Hyong-Keun*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea.

*Yun Hyong-keun*, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK.

### 2017

David Zwirner Gallery, New York, NY, USA.

### 2016

Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium.

*Burnt Umber and Ultramarine Blue 1990-1993*, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK.

### 2015

Blum & Poe, New York, NY, USA

*Yun Hyong-Keun: works 1972-1990*, PKM Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

Gallery Yamaguchi kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan.

### 2007

*Silent Poetry*, Wellside Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

*Yun Hyong-keun*, Johyun Gallery, Busan, South Korea.

### 2006

Galerie Jean Brolly, Paris, France.

### 2003

Park Ryu Sook Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

Gallery Shilla, Daegu, South Korea.

### 2002

Strasbourg Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Strasbourg, France.

Galerie Jean Brolly, Paris, France.

Johyun Gallery, Busan, South Korea.

Gallery Ihn, Seoul, South Korea.



**2001**

Art Sonje Museum, Gyeongju, South Korea.

Bibi Gallery, Daejeon, South Korea.

Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan.

**1999**

Johyun Gallery, Busan, South Korea.

Gallery Shilla, Daegu, South Korea.

Rho Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1997**

Stiftung für Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen, Germany.

**1996**

Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, South Korea.

**1994**

Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea.

The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, TX, USA.

Galerie Bhak, Seoul, South Korea.

**1993**

Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Donald Judd Foundation, New York, NY, USA.

**1991**

Inkong Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

Suzukawa Gallery, Hiroshima, Japan.

Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan.

Galerie Humanite, Nagoya, Japan.

**1990**

Gallery Ueda, Tokyo, Japan.

**1989**

Suzukawa Gallery, Hiroshima, Japan.

Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan.

Galerie Humanite, Nagoya, Japan.

Inkong Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1987**

Inkong Gallery, Daegu, South Korea.

Inax Gallery, Osaka, Japan.

**1986**

Inax Gallery, Osaka, Japan.

Inkong Gallery, Daegu, South Korea.

**1982**

KwanHoon Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1981**

Association Villa Corot 25 Ateliers, Paris, France.

**1980**

KwanHoon Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1978**

Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.

**1977**

Seoul Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

Space Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1976**

Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.

**1976**

Mun Hun Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1973-4**

Myongdong Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1966**

Press Center Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

## Exhibition history

### – selected group exhibitions

#### 2017

*Rhythm in Monochrome: Korean Abstract Painting*, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Japan.

*Who Can Be Strangers? The Art of Mono-ha and Dansaekhwa*, Blum & Poe at Adrian Rosenfeld Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA.

*INTUITION*, Axel & May Vervoordt Foundation, Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy.

#### 2016

*New Beginnings: Between Gesture and Geometry*, The George Economou Collection, Athens, Greece.

*Dansaekhwa and Minimalism*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA; traveled to Blum & Poe, New York, USA.

*The Myth of YOBAEK, Vacating a Pictural Surface: Cheongju Writes the Early History of Contemporary Arts of Korea*, Cheongju Museum of Art, Cheongju, South Korea.

*EMBRACING: Yun Hyong-keun with Chusa and Donald Judd*, PKM Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

*Korean Abstract Art: Early Works*, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, NY, USA.

#### 2015

*MMCA Collection Highlights: Untitled*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

*PROPORTIO*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy.

*Dansaekhwa*, Palazzo Contarini-Polignac, Venice, Italy.

*45th Anniversary of Gallery Hyundai: Korean Abstract Painting*, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, South Korea.

*Dansaekhwa: 5 masters*, Rho Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

#### 2014

*The Art of Dansaekhwa*, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

*The Artistic Spirit of Modern Artists on Paper*, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, South Korea.

*From All Sides: Dansaekhwa on Abstraction*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

*Empty Fullness: Materiality and Spirituality in Contemporary Korean Art*, Korean Cultural Center, Beijing, China; travelled to SPSI Art Museum, Shanghai, China; Koreanisches Kulturzentrum, Berlin, Germany; National Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia.

*Overcoming the Modern Dansaekhwa: The Korean Monochrome Movement*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY, USA.

*Looking Back of Korean Art History*, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, South Korea.

*China*, Koreanischer Kulturzentrum, Berlin, Germany; National Museum of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia.

## 2013

*Closer to Contemporary Art II: Abstract Art is Real*, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, South Korea.

*Scenes vs Scenes*, Buk Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

*Writing Becomes Painting*, POSCO Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea.

*Contemporary Art in Textbook*, Goyang Oulim Nuri Arts Center, Goyang, South Korea.

## 2012

*Dansaekhwa: Korean Monochrome Painting*, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Jeonbuk, South Korea.

*Mapping the Realities*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

*Korean Art 100 Years*, Ulsan Culture Art Center, Ulsan, South Korea.

*Dansaekhwa: Korean Monochrome Painting*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

*Korean Art from the Museum Collection: Grand-Narrative Part I*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

## 2011

*Qi is Full-Section 1: Drawing Yi*, Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, South Korea.

*Korean Abstract Painting: 10 Perspectives*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

*Masterpieces' Exhibition in Autumn: Collections in National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art*, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Jeonbuk, South Korea.

*Korean Modern Masters*, Ulsan Culture Art Center, Ulsan, South Korea.

*Since 1950 - South Korea's Contemporary Art Overseas Development and the Phase*, Daljin Museum, Seoul, South Korea.

*Abstract it!*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Deoksugung, Seoul, South Korea.

**2009**

*Two Dialogues: Yun Hyong-keun and Donald Judd*, Johyun Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**2008**

*Korean Abstract Painting 1958-2008*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

**2007**

*Korean Contemporary Art 100 Artists: 1970-2007*, Korea Art Center, Busan, South Korea.

**2004**

*Monochrome Paintings of Korea, Past and Present*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

**2003**

*Drawing: Its New Horizons*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Deoksugung, Seoul, South Korea.

**2002**

*Appreciation of Abstract Paintings*, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea.

*Korean Contemporary Art from the 1970's to Mid-1980's, Age of Philosophy and Aesthetic*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

*Aesthetic of 70's Plane, hidden by Monotone*, Hanwon Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

*Minimal Maximal 1990*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

**2001**

*Korea Contemporary Art Festival*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

*Yun Hyong-keun, Sim MoonSup*, Art Sonje Museum, Gyeongju, South Korea.

**2000**

*The Facet of Korean and Japanese Contemporary Art*, Special Exhibition at Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea.

*Plane as Spirits*, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea.

*A Passage for New Millennium: Korean of Overseas Exhibitions, 1990-99*,  
National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.  
*What is so of itself*, POSCO Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea.

**1998**

*Les Peintres du Silence*, Musee du Chateau des Ducs de Wurtemberg,  
Montbeliard, France.

**1997**

*The Permanent Collections*, The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, TX, USA.

**1996**

*The Permanent Collections*, The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, TX, USA.  
*Spirit of Korean Abstract Painting*, Ho-Am Art Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1995**

46th Venice Biennale, Korean Pavilion, Venice, Italy.  
*The Spirit of Abstract Art*, Ho-Am Art Gallery, Seoul, South Korea .

**1994**

*Seoul International Contemporary Art Festival*, National Museum of Modern and  
Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

**1993-4**

*The Seoul Art Exhibition*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

**1993**

*12 Contemporary Artists from Korea*, The Miyagi Museum of Art, Sendai, Japan.

**1992**

*Working with Nature - Traditional Thoughts in Contemporary Art from Korea*,  
Tate Gallery, Liverpool, UK.

**1991**

*Contemporary Korean Painting*, Muzejski Prostor, Zagreb, Croatia; travelled to  
Cankarje-oom, Ljubljana, Slovenia and Herzegovina; Artisticum Collegium,  
Sarajevo Galerija Cvjeta Zuzoric, Beograd, Serbia.  
*Inaugural Exhibition of Korean Contemporary Art*, Art Sonje Museum, Gyeongju,  
South Korea.

*Contemporary Korean Painting*, Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb, Croatia.

**1989**

*Hiroshima Consignment Work 'Theme Hiroshima'*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan.

**1988**

*Seoul Contemporary Art Festival*, Art Center Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

*In Celebration of Lee Kyung Sung's 70th Birthday*, Ho-Am Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea.

*Korean 4 Artists*, Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.

*Korean Modern Painting in the 70's*, Walker Hill Art Center, Seoul, South Korea.

*Olympiad of Art: The International Contemporary Painting*, Sponsored by Seoul OOC, Organized by National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

**1987**

*87 Seoul Art Exhibition*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

*Korean Contemporary 4 Artists*, Laboratory Gallery, Sapporo, Japan.

*Black and White in Korean Art Today*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

**1986**

*Exposition: Seoul-Paris*, Press Center Gallery, Seoul and Centre National des Arts Plastique, Paris, France.

*86 Seoul Contemporary Asian Art Shows*, Sponsored by Asian Games Organizing Committee, Organized by National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea.

*Past and Present: Korean Antiques and Contemporary Arts 'Works on Paper'*, Sponsored by Oritsukasa Co. Ltd., Kamakuramikura Bldg., Kyoto, Japan.

**1985**

*Human Documents '84/85*, Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.

*Contemporary Korean Paper Art*, Organized by Central Washington University, Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, Ellensburg, WA, USA.

*ASPACAE '85 (Asian Pacific Conference on Arts Education)*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

*Korean-Western Painting of 70's*, Ho-Am Art Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

*Modern Art from the Past 40 Years: In Commemoration of Korean Independence Day*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

**1985-3**

*Korea Contemporary 100 Artists*, Organized by Seoul Press Group, Seoul Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

*Invitation Exhibition of Contemporary Art*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

**1984**

*The Returning Exhibition of Korean Contemporary Arts Exhibition: The Latter Half of The*

*70's: An Aspect*, Sponsored by Korea Culture and Arts Foundation, Fine Art Center Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

*23 Artists of Today*, Organized by Joong Ang Daily News, Dongbang Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1983**

*Korean Contemporary Arts Exhibition: The Latter half of the 70's: An Aspect*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo; travelled to Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi; The National Museum of Art, Osaka; Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Hokkaido; and Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.

**1982-83**

*Works on Paper in Korea and Japan*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, Korea; travelled to Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto; The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama; and Kumamoto Traditional Crafts Center, Kumamoto, Japan.

**1981**

*Korean Contemporary Art Phase*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan.

**1980**

*Print and Drawing*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

*Asia Contemporary Art Festival Part II*, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.



**1979**

*Korean Contemporary: Arts Unique Method of 4 Artists*, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, South Korea.

**1978**

*Korea: The Trend for the Past 20 Years of Contemporary Art*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

*Second Rencontres Internationales D'Art Contemporain*, Galeries Nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, France.

*The 5th Korean Fine Art Grand-Prix Exhibition*, held by Hankook Press Group, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

4th Triennale India, New Delhi, India.

**1977**

*Korea: Contemporary 10 Artists*, Korea UNESCO Center, Seoul, South Korea.

*Korean Contemporary Paintings*, Taipei National Ancient Museum, Taipei, Taiwan.

*Korea: Facet of Contemporary Art*, Tokyo Central Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.

*Korean Western Paintings Grand Exhibition*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

*Korean Contemporary 6 Artists*, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo and Galerie Beaux-Art, Nagoya, Japan

**1976-86**

*Ecole de Seoul*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

**1976**

8th Cagnes International Painting Festival, Cagnes sur Mer, France.

*Korean Contemporary 5 Artists*, Seoul Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1975-86**

*Seoul Contemporary Art Festival*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

**1975**

13th Sao Paulo Biennale, Sao Paulo National Contemporary Art Museum, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**1974-79**

*Independents*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, South Korea.

**1973**

*Contemporary Art '73*, Myongdong Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

**1969**

10th Sao Paulo Biennale, Sao Paulo National Contemporary Art Museum, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**1964**

*Celebration of Tokyo Olympic Exhibition*, Organized by the Ministry of Culture, Seoul, South Korea.

**1963**

*Korean Contemporary Artists Exhibition*, held by Hankook Press Group, Press Center Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

Gyeongbokgung Museum of Art, South Korea

**1961-63**

*Group of Engagement*, Information Center Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.

## Public collections

National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea  
Space Gallery, Seoul, South Korea  
Ho-am Gallery, Seoul, South Korea  
Kwan-hoon Gallery, Seoul, South Korea  
The National Museum, Seoul, South South Korea  
Museum of Hong-Ik University, Seoul, South Korea  
Museum of Kyong-won University, Seoul, South Korea  
Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea  
Fukuoka Art Museum, Japan  
Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Japan  
Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Japan  
Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan  
Johnson Museum of Art, Chicago, USA  
The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas, USA  
Stiftung fur konkrete Kunst Reutringen, Germany  
Mie Contemporary Art Museum, Japan  
Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Japan  
M+ Museum, Hong Kong