

# Ahn-Nyung | Hello

## INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN CONTEMPORARY ART

Featuring Work by Hyung Kwan Kim, Seok Kim, Yeonju Sung and Jin Young Yu

Curated by Jae Yang | Art-merge

(Culver City, CA—December 2010) Opening January 22, 2011, at LeBasse Projects, *Ahn-Nyung | Hello* is an exhibition of 15 multimedia works by four Korean artists exploring the conceptual and visual currents igniting the Korean contemporary art scene today. Curator Jae Yang mines the vanguard of South Korea's dynamic gallery scene to deliver the American audience an unprecedented survey of works that are as effusive in their naiveté as they are expansive in their aesthetic achievement. As a whole, *Ahn-Nyung | Hello* uncovers a culture in transition in which memories are mutable, synthesis abuts tradition, and experience is subject to a regimen of creative re-envisioning. Featured artists include Hyung Kwan Kim, Seok Kim, Yeonju Sung, and Jin Young Yu. A companion exhibition, *Paperwork*, will

take place in the gallery's project space, featuring works on paper by artists Kim Eull, Tae Heon Kim, Kakyong Lee, and Yong Sin.

In *Ahn-Nyung | Hello*, the artists utilize a range of media to explore a rapidly changing society, working with either synthetic materials (Hyung Kwan Kim's plastic tape reliefs and Jin Young Yu's PVC sculptures)—or organic matter reinterpreted anachronistically (Seok Kim's wooden robot sculptures) and unexpectedly (Yeonju Sung's photographs of haute couture designs constructed from a variety of common foodstuffs).

In contrast is *Paperwork*, the companion exhibition in the gallery's project space. Where *Ahn-Nyung | Hello* embraces postmodernity's fragmented, disparate luster, *Paperwork* evokes tradition and continuity in its presentation of contemporary work

## Paperwork

### COMPANION EXHIBITION TO AHN-NYUNG | HELLO

Featuring Works on Paper by Kim Eull, Tae Heon Kim, Kakyong Lee, and Yong Sin

**JANUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 19, 2011**  
**LEBASSE PROJECTS**

Curated by Jae Yang | Art-merge

made from Asian art's most fundamental media—ink and paper. Taken together, *Ahn-Nyung | Hello* and *Paperwork* operate in dialogue with one another to offer an engaging and challenging overview of Korean contemporary art.



*FAMILY IN DISGUISE*, MIXED MEDIA, 14" X 51" X 18"

**JIN YOUNG YU:** Yu's work depicts the outsider longing to be invisible—the fly on the wall or the observer seeking to go unseen. Artist handiwork meets the commercial perfection one would usually expect from the likes of Koons or Murakami, as Yu constructs her figures from an ultra-transparent PVC and hand cast and painted plaster. The resulting sculptures explore the dynamics of social anxiety and expectation through a semi-apparent cast of subjects who are somber, withdrawn and exquisitely unapproachable.



*PRAYING GUNDAM*, PLASTIC, 16" X 19" X 8"

**SEOK KIM:** The robot—a childhood plaything, object of desire and memory, and once a cornerstone of Asian pop-cultural vernacular—assumes a transcendent role in Kim's sculptural work. In his monochromatic plastic pieces, the artist's subjects appear nearly untouchable, deep in epic poses of thought and prayer. Meanwhile his colorful wooden robots take on distinctly human frailties, as they sit alone at a desk or pose alongside their bicycle during a commute home.



**BANANA, PIGMENT PRINT, 35" X 54"**

**YEONJU SUNG:** In her photographs of clothing constructed from material that could never be worn, Sung captures a series of phantoms—temporal checkpoints depicting objects destined to decay, objects that fail in function what they seem to fulfill in appearance. By ultimately rendering what begins as sculptural work in the photographic medium, Sung exposes an authority of image over reality, revealing the tenuous line that separates lived from imagined experience.



**MORE THAN THIS #3, PLASTIC ELECTRICAL TAPE, 70" X 46"**

**HYUNG KWAN KIM:** In Kim's work, wistful scenes of discovery are born out against dense, hyper fields of urban activity. Human figures appear obscured, dismembered or caricatured in each colorful relief, as Kim explores the concept of cities and societies as grand artificial exhibition halls. This is a process-rich endeavor in which the artist derives a nuanced palette from the subtle color deviations and inconsistencies in plastic electrical and packing tape.

#### **ABOUT LEBASSE PROJECTS**

LeBasse Projects is a contemporary art gallery committed to showcasing the talents of a select group of international artists. Since opening its doors in Los Angeles' Culver City Arts District in 2007, LeBasse highlights emerging talent and is focused on developing the careers of a select group including Yoskay Yamamoto, Blaine Fontana, Herakut, Nate Frizzell, Edwin Ushiro, Andrew Hem, Melissa Haslam, Alexandros Vasmoulakis, Thomas Doyle, Morgan Slade and more.

#### **ABOUT JAE YANG | ART-MERGE**

Jae Yang is the founder of Art-merge, a Los Angeles based art consulting firm that supports emerging artists through representation, marketing, career development and exhibition opportunities. Since 2003, Jae Yang has championed the growth of the region's creative scene, and she currently sits on boards with the L.A. Municipal Art Gallery and Los Angeles Art Association (previous board experience includes the MOCA Contemporaries and AIGA Los Angeles).

A first generation Korean American and a graduate of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Jae introduces Korea's most cutting-edge contemporary work to the American art market with a professional savvy and artistic acumen gleaned from years of experience as an international marketing and creative director. Through Art-merge, she seeks to spark synergy between artists and collectors through cultural collaboration, education, enrichment and support.

#### **WHAT:**

**AHN-NYUNG | HELLO** - an introduction to Korean contemporary art featuring work by Hyung Kwan Kim, Seok Kim, Yeonju Sung and Jin Young Yu.  
Curated by Jae Yang | Art-merge

**PAPERWORK** - a companion exhibition to *Ahn-Nyung | Hello*, featuring works on paper by Kim Eull, Tae Heon Kim, Kakyong Lee, and Yong Sin.  
Curated by Jae Yang | Art-merge

#### **WHEN:**

**January 22, 2011 to February 19, 2011**  
**OPENING RECEPTION:**  
**January 22, 2011, 7pm - 10pm**  
Gallery Hours: Wed - Sat, 11am to 6 pm  
or by appointment

#### **WHERE:**

LeBasse Projects  
6023 Washington Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90232  
310.558.0200 | [www.lebasseprojects.com](http://www.lebasseprojects.com)

#### **PRESS CONTACT:**

Jae Yang  
Art-merge  
310.913.1133  
[jae@art-merge.com](mailto:jae@art-merge.com)  
[www.art-merge.com](http://www.art-merge.com)