

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Yooyun Yang: Passing Time

Thursday 1 June - Saturday 22
July 2023

Private view:
Wednesday 31 May, 6–8pm

Gallery hours:
Tuesday–Friday, 10am–6pm
Saturday 11am–5pm



Stephen Friedman Gallery is delighted to present South Korean artist **Yooyun Yang**'s first solo exhibition in Europe.

Yang's atmospheric and enigmatic paintings are cloaked in darkness and explore the emotional states of people; with scenes conveying existential thoughts and feelings of solitude. Yang frequently conceals faces and subtly captures intimate moments. By using shadow and composition to create distance between the viewer and the subject, the artist articulates a sense of isolation in what she describes as this 'age of anxiety'.

Objects are fundamental to Yang's practice, with motifs of blinds, curtains and railings frequently appearing. By repositioning them through her otherworldly gaze, objects appear increasingly foreign.

Yang's practice is emotionally charged and simultaneously calm. Through a careful treatment of light, her paintings are contemplative: lurking in between the real and the imagined. A hazy, cinematic quality pervades the work and suggests the paintings' photographic origins. The artist takes her own photographs and from them maps out her compositions. Yang's snapshot style reveals overlooked details such as marks and folds on the skin and creases in fabric.

The artist paints on Hanji paper, traditional Korean handmade paper made from mulberry tree bark. Yang builds up layers of diluted acrylic to control the intensity of the colour. Speaking of her paintings, Yang said 'I want my works to be like a thorn in your mind that pricks from time to time, or like a very gentle fever.'

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Contact Us

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Notes to editors

Yooyun Yang

Yang lives and works in Seoul, Korea. Born in 1985, Yang studied Oriental Painting at Sungshin Women's University in Seoul. The artist has had multiple solo exhibitions in Seoul including at Chapter II; Amado Art Space/Lab; Gallerylux; OCI Museum of Art; Gallery SoSo and Ccot+Incubator. She has also had solo exhibitions at Gallery Bundo in Deagu and Heyri Art Village in Paju.

In 2022 Yang was included in the 58th Carnegie International at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and in 2021 she was included in the 8th Chongkundang Yesuljisang at Sejong Museum of Art, Seoul. The artist has also been included in group exhibitions at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Cheongju and Arko Art Center, Seoul. She has carried out residencies at Korea National University of Arts, Seoul; Chapter II, Seoul; Studio White Lock, Cheonan; Gyeonggi Creation Center, Ansan-si and Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, Korea.

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Stephen Friedman Gallery represents exceptional artists from around the world. Since its inauguration in 1995, the gallery has been based in London on Old Burlington Street, Mayfair. The gallery has three spaces in which it hosts solo and group exhibitions throughout the year. Additional works can be viewed by appointment in private rooms and office spaces. There is also a facility to exhibit outdoor sculpture in a landscaped private garden.

In Autumn 2023, Stephen Friedman Gallery will expand and relocate to Cork Street, Mayfair. The new location will be designed by award-winning London architectural firm David Kohn Architects. Later in the year, the gallery will open its first space outside the UK in Tribeca, New York. It will be designed by Trimble Architecture.