

Gyre

PRESS RELEASE

Yunchul Kim

'Gyre'

30 August - 30 September, 2017

Gallery Baton is delighted to announce a solo exhibition of the work of Yunchul Kim (b. 1970, Korean) entitled 'Gyre' from 30th August to 30th September in Apgujeong, Seoul. 'Gyre' includes new installations by Kim who has been pursuing the convergence between science and art driven by in-depth research and a unique insight into various mediums and materials.

Yunchul Kim is an artist who discovers and explores the artistic potential of fluid mechanics and meta-materials. Researching properties of certain substances including photonics crystals, nano particle, and invisible sub-micron particles, Kim has sought the interface between art and science. He deals with scientific matter and studies the nature of materials in order to effectively adopt them for his works of art. Though he works in artificial media, he is often inspired by nature. He also examines discourses on literature, classical paintings, and philosophy, however he still emphasizes the actions of experiencing and touching materials. Thus, his constant idea-sketching and experiments allow his artworks to gain unique visual effects, which are rarely found in conventional art; he produces a special impression similar to a three-dimensional hallucination.



△ GYRE - Gallery Baton Exhibition View, 30 August - 30 September, 2017

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In this exhibition, Kim reveals new pieces presenting fascinating illusions: 'Triaxial Pillars II' and 'Gyre.' As the exhibition title 'Gyre' (meaning spiral or swirl) suggests, the materials selected by the artist rise and descend, creating movements reminiscent of sea waves. When specific substances are injected into a glass tube, they are not blended but rather generate boundaries. Due to the differences of the fluids' thermal expansions and conductivities, the contents respond to subtle changes in temperature. The boundary surfaces generated by the fluids are at times inflated, and their positions are changed. Without any physical interference from outside, the fluids never cease their delicate motion, and exchange energy with the outer world of the glass tube. The interplay of these two fluids stimulate the spectators' vision by giving rise to a sense of the cosmos.

In this regard, each medium treated by Kim possesses its peculiar tendency. Kim noted that traits of materials exist beyond the realm of human sensation and awareness so that human cognition is not able to anticipate which modes certain materials would manifest in. Accordingly, the artist suggests 'Fundamental Gazing' to the audience who encounters the work that liberally forms waves as the ocean does. By employing specific matter that usually remains as constituent fluids in objects, Kim encourages viewers to confront and directly experience their origin. As the elegant movements of these scientific media resemble the wavelengths of sounds, the works unfold a distinctive scene which is rarely seen in a gallery. By bringing science into the territory of art, Kim's practice enables spectators to imagine a source outside of our familiar world.



△ *Triaxial Pillars II*, 2017
acrylic, aluminum, photonic crystal, motor, computer, electronic micro controller,
electromagneticfield generator, air pump, dimensions variable

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The exhibition 'Gyre' reveals two site-specific pieces, 'Triaxial Pillars II,' and 'Gyre' that present Kim's themes of materiality and advancements in scientific technology. The artworks create a feast of diffusion and traces of light along with the flow of fluid constantly shifted by the coexistence of control and neglect. They consequently allow spectators not only to encounter moments they have never experienced, but also to contemplate the materials' origins.

Yunchul Kim, a founder of 'Studio Locus Solus' and a chief researcher of 'Materiality,' a trans-disciplinary research program at Korean Institute for Advanced Study, gained public recognition by being selected as a winner of COLLIDE International Award hosted by CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire Geneva) in 2016. He is actively presenting his works at numerous leading galleries and museums such as National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA, Seoul, Korea), Asia Culture Centre (Gwangju, Korea), Seoul Museum of Art (Seoul, Korea), National Art Museum of China (Beijing, China), Austrian Museum of Applied Arts (MAK, Vienna, Austria), including solo exhibitions at SongEun Art Space (Seoul, Korea), Berlin Kuenstlerhaus Bethanien (Berlin, Germany), Ernst Schering Foundation (Berlin, Germany).

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