

Pontone

GALLERY

Lee Jinyong

The Weight of Thought

Lee Jinyong is an award-winning, mid-career, Korean artist with an impressive CV of solo and group exhibitions. He has shown extensively in Korea and the United States, where his work is featured in many public and private collections. He has not, as yet, been seen in the UK. The Pontone Gallery is therefore delighted to represent him with his first, exclusive, solo exhibition in London.

His work takes the form of meticulous, wall-mounted constructions and 'photo-realistic' paintings. This description does not really do justice to the labour and focus required to make these startlingly tangible objects and images. His paintings, fastidiously rendered in oil on panel, are of antique books, worn and patinated by age and use. Their titles speak of art, literature, science and philosophy; conjuring up a singular weight of human thought and creativity. The sculptural pieces are composed of multiples of ceramic Typecast-blocks depicting Korean ideograms. These are combined in their hundreds to make regularly shaped reliefs which, from a distance, form an undifferentiated surface. On closer inspection they reveal themselves to be the components of language. The pieces challenge the viewer to construct a story, to make sense of what may be random, to read a code, in short, to engage with language.

Lee Jinyong is fascinated by text and its classifications. His pieces are full of undeciphered and mysterious messages. The books are presented as seductively tactile relics, almost intimidating in the density of attention that the artist has granted them. The book itself has become physically important, the object is as profound as its potential message. His paintings make the book into a monument. The ceramic, stony and sgraffitoed surfaces of his constructions make association with archaeological objects. They can be read as messages from the distant past, attempted dialogues with departed civilisations.

The artist's subjects are objects of personal significance, part of his life's collection. They have, by virtue of his obsessive and highly skilled attention, become containers for expansive ideas about the importance of memory and the value of history in its many interpretations. These pieces suggest we look over our shoulders before moving on.

PAINTINGS





3. Hardbacks I (c) 2015 Oil on Canvas 91 x 73 cm (36 x 29 in)

Oil on Canvas 91 x 65 cm (36 x 25.5 in)





5. Hardbacks III (a) 2015 Oil on Canvas 73 x 91 cm (29 x 36 in)

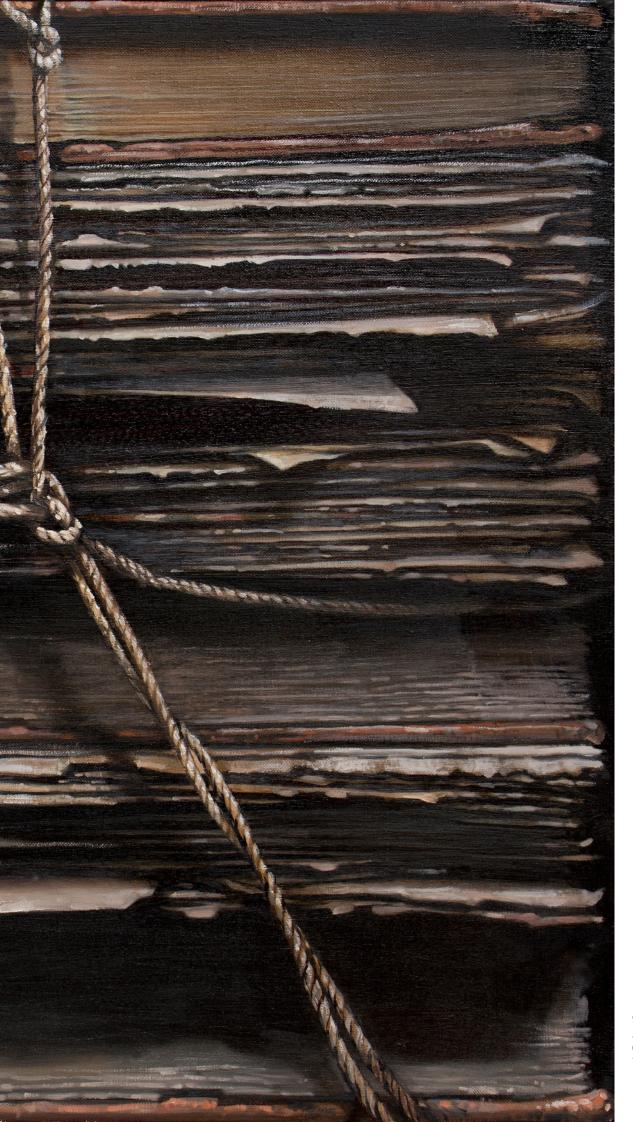
6. Hardbacks III (b) 2015 Oil on Canvas 73 x 91 cm (29 x 36 in)

7. Hardbacks III (c) 2015 Oil on Canvas 73 x 91 cm (29 x 36 in)

> **8. Hardbacks IV** 2013 Oil on Canvas 91 x 65 cm (36 x 25.5 in)







9. Hardbacks V 2014 Oil on Canvas 73 x 91 cm (29 x 36 in)





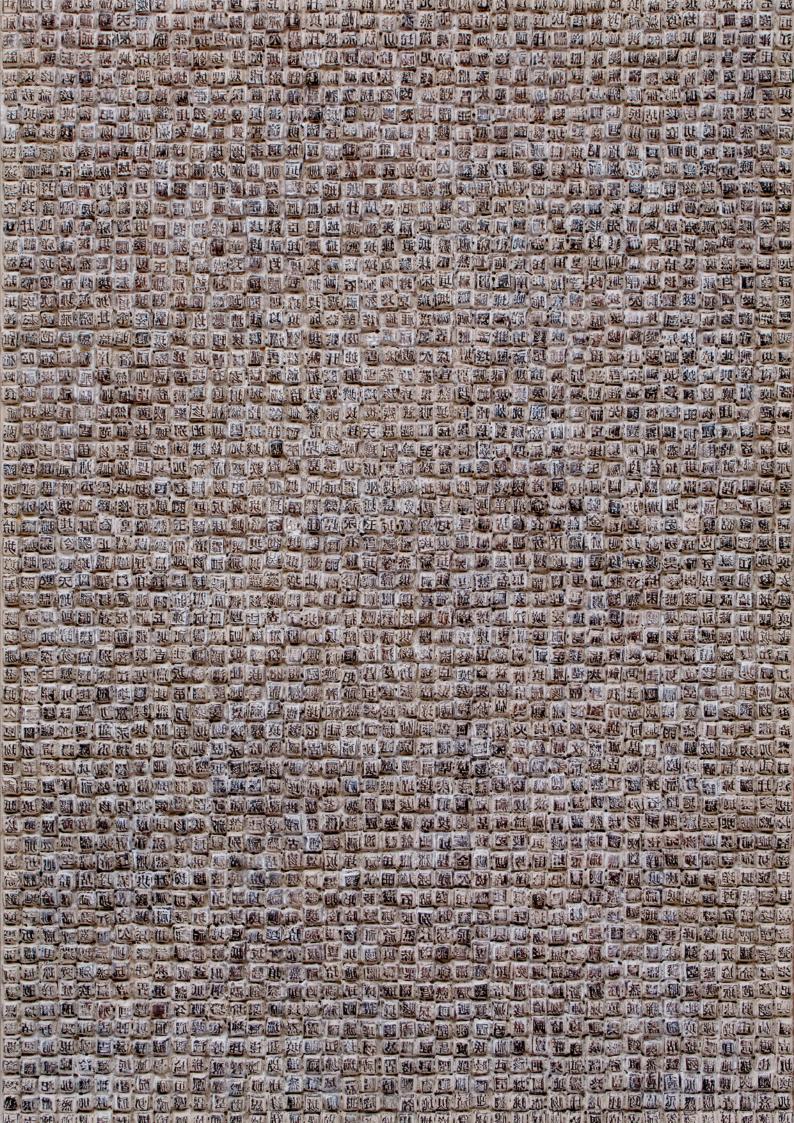
10. Hardbacks VI 2015 Oil on Canvas 73 x 116 cm (29 x 45.5 in)





11. Hardbacks VII 2015 Oil on Canvas 91 x 116 cm (36 x 45.5 in)

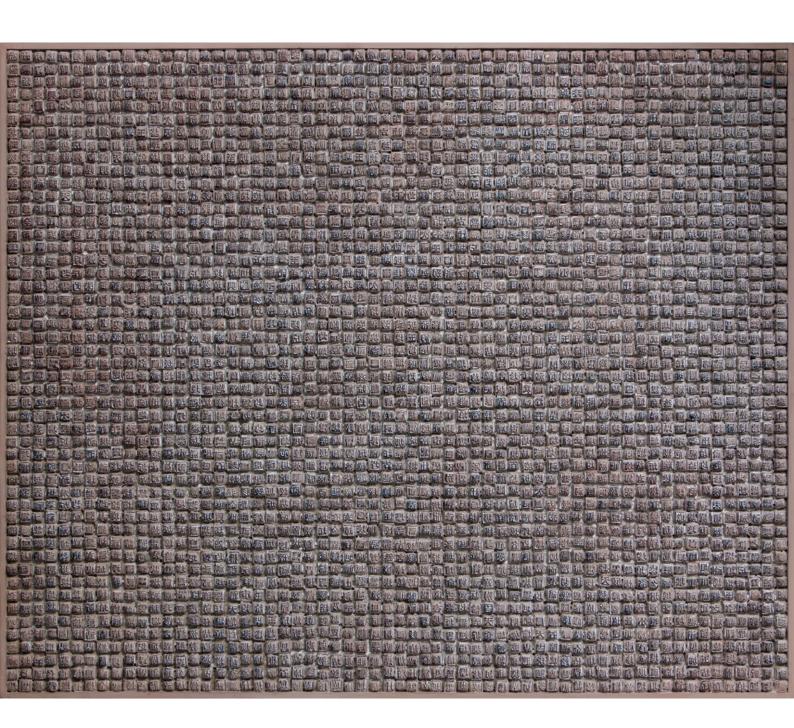
SCULPTURES

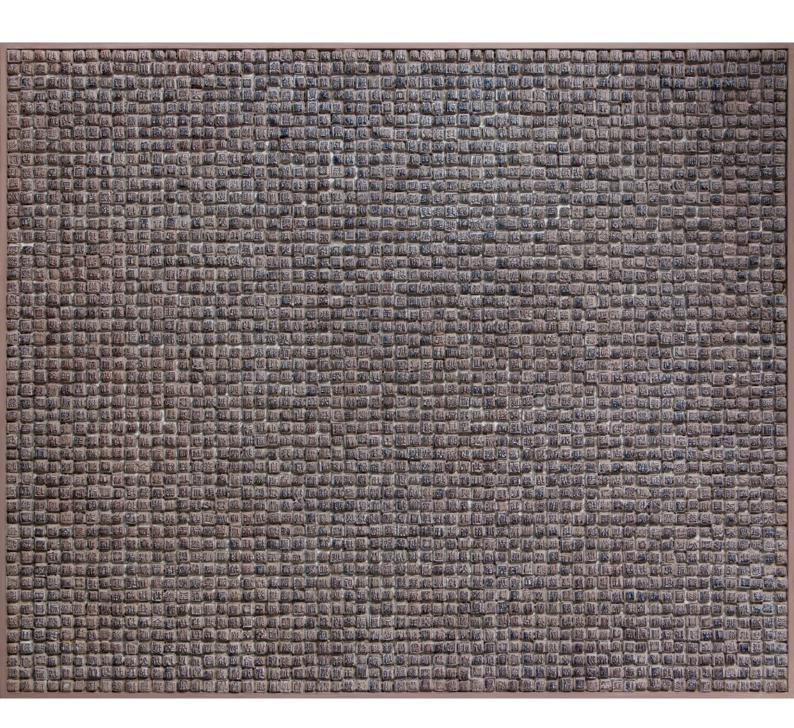


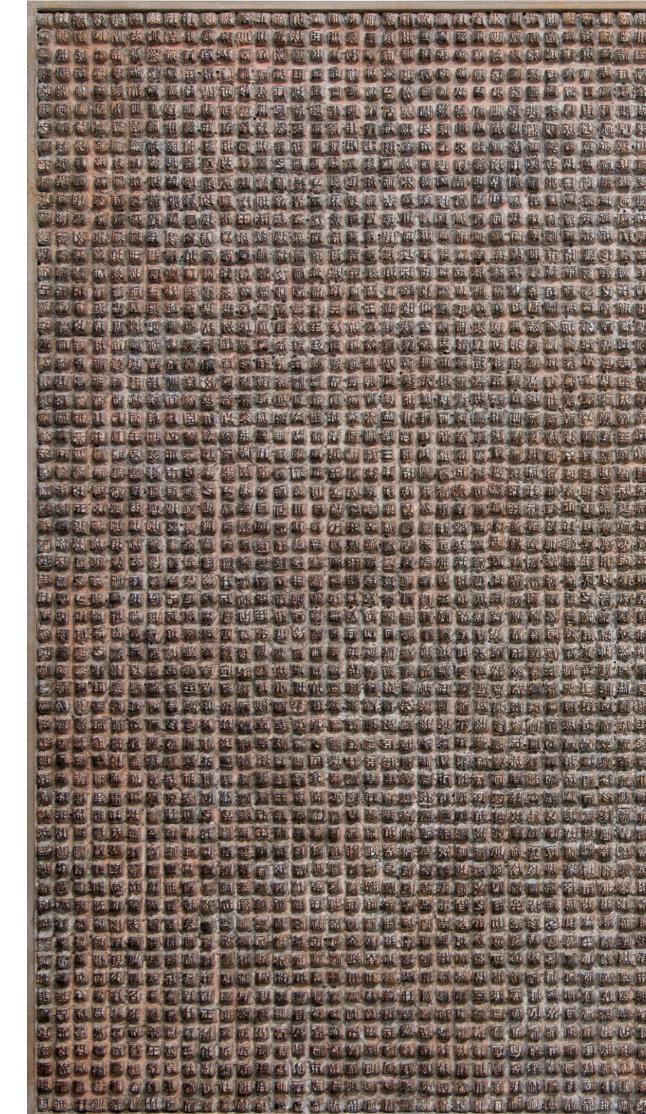


13. Typecast II 2015 Mixed Media 122 x 50 cm (48 x 20 in)

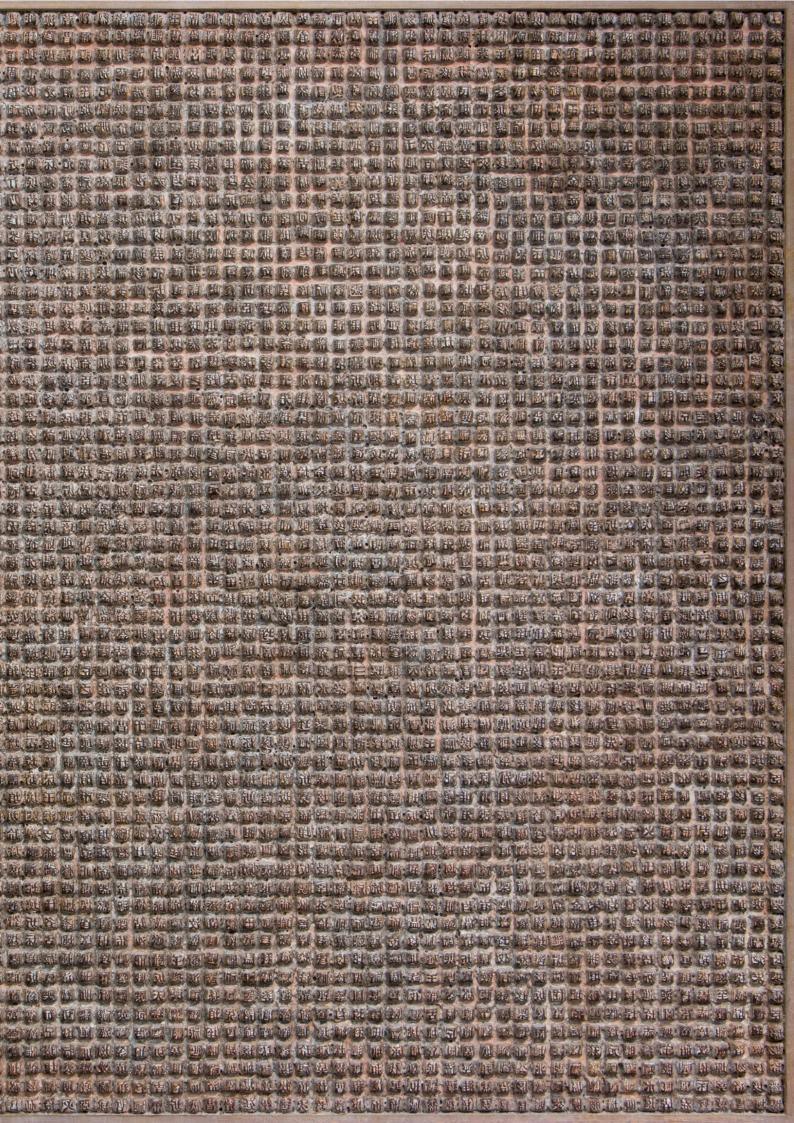








17. Typecast VI2015
Mixed Media
124 x 156 cm
(49 x 61.5 in)



LEE JINYONG

1961 Born in Busan, South Korea

EDUCATION

BFA in Sculpture, Dong-A University, Busan, South Korea

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017	Lee Jinyong, Hakgojae Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
2016	The Old Bookhouse, Hakgojae Gallery, Shanghai, China
2015	5015.158.43, Gallery Bundo, Daegu, South Korea
2014	TRUNK 68m2, Gallery Baton, Seoul, South Korea
2012	Time Collected, Arario Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
2009	In My Memory, JHY Gallery, Busan, South Korea
2008	Arario Gallery, Cheonan, South Korea
2005	LA Artcore, Los Angeles, USA
2004	The Nature in My Drawer, Park Ryu Sook Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
2003	Open Studio, Gallery Sejul, Seoul, South Korea LA Artcore, Los Angeles, USA
2002	LA Artcore, Los Angeles, USA
2001	Park Ryu Sook Gallery, Seoul, South Korea Gallery Yemac, Seoul, South Korea
2000	LA Artcore, Los Angeles, USA

RECENT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015	Memories of Artistic Soul, Cheonan Arts Center Museum of Art, Cheonan, South Korea
2012	Four o'clock, Haeundae Art Center, Busan, South Korea
2011	ARTISTS with ARARIO 2011 - Part 2, Arario Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
2010	ARTISTS with ARARIO 2011 - Part 2, Arario Gallery, Seoul, South Korea Mind Game III, Andrew Shire Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2007	The Armory Show, New York, USA
2006	The Room of Memory, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
2005	Traveling Art Museum, Dong-gu Cultural and Athletic Hall, Daegu, South Korea
2004	5 Artists, Column Gallery, New York, USA Mind Game II, Andrew Shire Gallery, Los Angeles, USA 2004 Gwangju Biennale: A Grain of Dust A Drop of Water, Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju, South Korea Looking at the Atelier, Insa Art Center, Seoul, South Korea Nam Kiho, Rhee Kibong, Lee Jinyong, Gallery Yemac, Seoul, South Korea 2004 New Acquisitions, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
2003	Sense & Sensibility, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea 20 Years Together, Park Ryu Sook Gallery, Seoul, South Korea



