



Mari Kim 2016
A104
02

Pontone
GALLERY

Mari Kim | DAYS OF FUTURE PAST

COVER – Rainbow Walks for the Destiny Solar Mix

Genuine Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
126 x 110 cm (49.5 x 43.5 in), 2016

DAYS OF FUTURE PAST

Mari Kim is a Korean artist who uses the language of Manga, Disney and Pop-Art to make her glossily realised paintings. Her images derive from a rich mixture of Western and Eastern cultural references. She produces pieces which explicitly reflect a pop sensibility and aesthetic back at her audience.

She trained as an animator in Australia before moving back to Korea and embarking on a successful career as a video director. This is where she developed her signature 'Eyedoll' characters. These distinctive images became the protagonists of her painting project.

The 'Big Eye Doll' archetype embodies a wide gallery of female subjects. These range from teenage girls to a variety of well known characters, both real and fictional, including The Queen, Margaret Thatcher, Angelina Jolie, Snow White and Cat Woman. These are depicted in a richly coloured, decorative, graphic manner. Sometimes the background is covered in text, rendered in the highly stylised forms of graffiti.

These lush and jewelled images, the graphic handling emphasising their flatness, have the lustre of 'bright and shiny' consumables lined up in a department store display case for our delectation. They speak of acquisitive desire and instant gratification. Their formula of production and the uniform treatment of the subjects, irrespective of their actuality, makes for a message of 'the same, but different', like the ranges of mobile phones or watches we see in the store. The pictures are a lure for a hungry eye.

Contrastingly, the artist has spoken about a sense of threat in her work, saying that she is interested in expressing the 'twisted innocence' of 'evil kids in mass media'. On closer inspection, these images of women and girls carry some more sinister freight after all. The fact that this is concealed in such an attractive package makes it all the more startling.

If this is an artist for whom the surface is all, she has some interesting things to say about what that surface reveals to us.





Concubine Solar Mix 1

Grffiti Mix on Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Canvas
130 x 163 cm (51 x 64 in), 2016



Dan Chung Solar Mix

Genuine Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
110 x 110 cm (43.5 x 43.5 in), 2016



Romance in Pessimism Solar Mix
Genuine Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
80 x 80 cm (31.5 x 31.5 in), 2016



Cat Woman in Solar System

Genuine Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
130 x 110 cm (51 x 43.5 in), 2016



Astronaut Solar System

Genuine Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
130 x 94 cm (51 x 37 in), 2016





Astronaut in Solar System Portrait

Genuine Gold and Silver Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
104 x 110 cm (41 x 43.5 in), 2016



Snow White Extreme Galaxy Mix

Genuine Silver Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
110 x 110 cm (43.5 x 43.5 in), 2016



Deadly Dollar Silver

Genuine Silver Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
72 x 58 cm (28.5 x 23 in), 2016



Korean Rabbit Solar Mix

Genuine Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
110 x 110 cm (43.5 x 43.5 in), 2016



Deadly Dollar Gold

Genuine Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
72 x 58 cm (28.5 x 23 in), 2016

Concubine Solar Mix 2

Graffiti Mix on Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Canvas
130 x 163 cm (51 x 64 in), 2016







Korean Rainbow Gold & Silver Mix 1

Genuine Gold and Silver Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
75 x 75 cm (29.5 x 29.5 in), 2016



Korean Rainbow Gold Mix 2

Genuine Gold Leaf Plated on Ultra Chrome Ink Printed Paper
75 x 75 cm (29.5 x 29.5 in), 2016

MARI KIM

Born in South Korea.

Master's Degree in Creative Media, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia – 2006

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016

Days of Future Past, Pontone Gallery, London, UK

Days of Future Past, Special feature at LA Art show 2016, USA

SETI, Hak Go Jae Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2015

Romance in the Age of Chaos, JR Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Forgotten Promises, Hak Go Jae Gallery, Shanghai, China

2014

Synchronicity, Shine Artists Gallery, London, UK

Famous Show in Berlin, JR Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Famous Eyedoll, AP Contemporary Gallery, Hong Kong

2013

The Premiere U.S. solo exhibition of Korean artist Mari Kim, Art Aqua Art Miami, Miami, USA

Famous Show in Hong Kong, LCX Harbour city, Hong Kong

2012

Famous Show in Dubai, Opera Gallery, Dubai, UAE

Famous Show in Busan, Gana Art Gallery, Busan, South Korea

Famous Show, Gana Art Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2011

Child Play, Television 12 Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2009

EYEDOLL SHOW, LVS Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2008

Sugar Candy Show, Ssamzie Illu-pop Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015

Autumn Contemporary Collection, Shine Artists, London, UK

2014

Phantasmagoria, INsa Art center, Seoul, South Korea

2013

K- Surrogates, Amalgamated Gallery, New York, USA

Korean Collective, Shine Artists & Albemarle Gallery, London, UK

Sub Express 2013, Culture Station, Seoul, South Korea

GANA 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EXHIBITION, Gana Art, Seoul, South Korea

2012

Festival O! Gwangju International Media Art 2012, Gwangju, South Korea

Cartoon World, Soma Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

My Funny Valentine, KimReeA Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Dragon in Your Room, Atelier Aki, Seoul, South Korea

2011

Black & White, Opera Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Character Logue, Jangheung Art Park, Jangheung, South Korea

Fun & Toy, Gana Art Gallery, Busan, South Korea

Clio Box, Insa Art Center, Seoul, South Korea

Imagination Virus, Jeonnam Art Museum, Gokseong, South Korea

A Fantastic Place, Pyo Gallery South, Seoul, South Korea

2010

IROBOT, Cho Sun Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Pop Party, Jangheung Art Park, Jangheung, South Korea

Byul Collection Now, Gallery Hyundai K-Auction, Seoul, South Korea

Decem Satisfaction, Gallery LEEBE, Busan, South Korea

Korean Contemporary Art 3-Pop Art, Kimhae Art Centre, Kimhae, South Korea

Korean 50 Contemporary Artists, Gyeonggi Arts Centre, Suwon, South Korea

Wow~! Funny Pop, Gyeongnam Art Museum, Changwon, South Korea

Korean Pop Art, Art Seasons Gallery, Singapore

2009

Korean Neo Pop, Gangnam Media Pole, Seoul, South Korea

Hello Funnism, Shin Han Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Beauty Rescues the World, Ssamzie Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Fun, K& Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Science Meets the Art, KAIST Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Korean Cartoon 100 years, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea

2008

ART IDOL, Gallery Seo Ho, Seoul, South Korea

COLLECTIONS

Seoul Museum of Art

Gyeongnam Art Museum

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KIST)

VIDEO

Produced the short film 'EYEDOLL' written and directed by Mari Kim – 2016

Directing 2NE1's Music Video 'Hate You' – 2011

Art Direction and Art work for 2NE1's 2nd Mini Album, YG – 2011

ENTERTAINMENT

Published the Art book 'EYEDOLL' – 2008

Directed the Short film 'Religulous,' Selected in France – 2007

MAINS D'OEUVRES

Berlin Pictoplasma Art Festival, Germany – 2006

Pontone

GALLERY

Pontone Gallery
43 Cadogan Gardens
London SW3 2TB
+44 20 7730 8777
gallery@pontonegallery.com