

Lee Jinyong

The Weight of Thought

30 June – 23 July 2017

Opening reception Thursday 29 June | 6–8 pm

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.

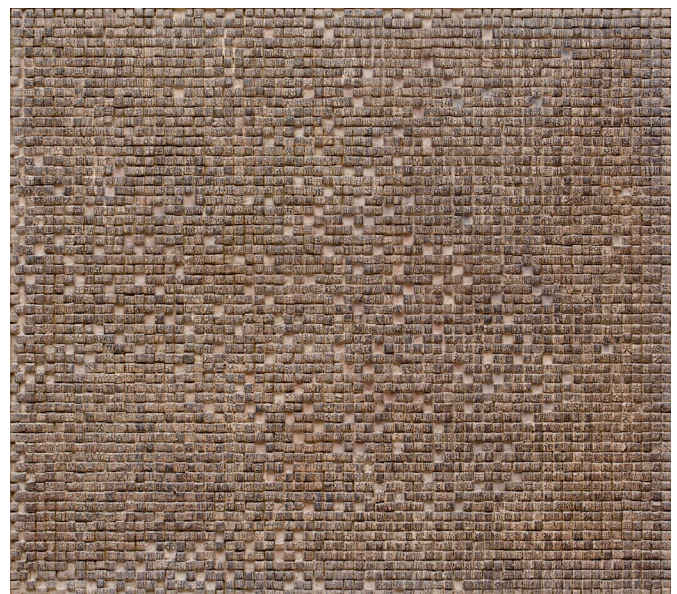
His work takes the form of meticulous, wall-mounted constructions and 'photo-realistic' paintings. This description does not really do justice to the labour and focus required to make these startlingly tangible objects and images. His paintings, fastidiously rendered in oil on panel, are of antique books, 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 type-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.



Hardbacks I (Triptych)
2015 | Oil on Canvas | each panel 91 x 73 cm (36 x 29 in)



Type V
2015 | Mixed Media | 124 x 156 cm (49 x 61 in)



Hardbacks VI
2015 | Oil on Canvas | 97 x 130 cm (38 x 51 in)

Pontone

GALLERY

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



Hardbacks I (Triptych - Middle)
2015 | Oil On Canvas | 91 x 73 cm (36 x 29 in)



Type I
2015 | Mixed Media | 122 x 84 cm (48 x 33 in)