

Lee Jaehyo

Nature Bound

20 January – 25 February 2017

Opening reception 19 January | 6–8 pm

Lee Jaehyo is a Korean sculptor who has exhibited extensively in his homeland and in Europe. He has shown regularly at the Albemarle Gallery in London and now makes his debut at their new space, The Pontone Gallery.

He makes free-standing sculptures and reliefs from humble, almost mundane, materials, principally logs and steel nails. These are transformed with great skill and hours of industrious toil into lustrous and refined objects. Their highly polished and burnished surfaces express an attention to detail and a painstaking concern for disclosing the innate beauty of the material. These unique forms are derived from the interdependence of man-made and natural. Their structural integrity relies on the contrasting combination of steel and wood.

His sculptures are biomorphic in form. The shapes of egg, pod and amoeba, and the modular nature of their construction, speak to us of growth and reproduction. While we can see reference to the simple, cell-like, structures of nature, there are also allusions to the man-made in echoes of table, bench and seat. Some of these pieces are deliberately ambiguous; their function suddenly becomes contradictory: can you sit on a sculpture?

Can you eat off one? They are inviting us to do so. At the same time we are only too aware of their status as 'Art'. He makes us reconsider our relationship with the 'everyday', the taken-for-granted, material world.

What is strongly expressed by Lee Jaehyo's work is a concern for, and immersive appreciation of, the natural world. His winning from his environment of basic and almost unregarded material (logs, simple steel fixings and scrap nails) and their metamorphosis under his hands is compelling. This is the ordinary made luxurious by intervention, by a sculptor who can see the beauty in the commonplace, who exposes it with the craft skills of a master cabinet maker.



0121-1110=116094
2016 | Wood (Chestnut) | 72 x 132 x 48 cm (28.5 x 52 x 19 in)



0121-1110=115094
2015 | Stainless Steel Bolts, Nails and Wood | 125 x 125 x 7 cm (49 x 49 x 3 in)

Pontone

GALLERY

LEE JAEHYO

Born in Hapchen, South Korea in 1965.

EDUCATION

1992 B.F.A. in Plastic Arts, Hong-ik University, South Korea

RECENT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016

The 44th – Madison Gallery, San Diego, USA

The 43rd – Seongnam Arts Center, Seoul, South Korea

2015

The 42nd – M Art Center, Shanghai, China

The 41st – Sohyang Gallery, Busan, South Korea

2014

The 40th - Pyo Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

The 39th - Albemarle Gallery, London, UK

The 38th - Gegjoo Literature House, South Korea

The 37th – BUNDO Gallery, Daegu, South Korea

The 36th – M Art Center, Shanghai, China

The 35th - HADA Gallery, London, UK

2013

The 34th - Ever Harvest Art Gallery, Taiwan

2012

The 33rd - Madison Gallery, San Diego, USA

The 32nd - Albemarle Gallery, London, UK

The 31st - Parkryesook Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

The 30th - DOSI Gallery, Busan, South Korea

The 29th - HADA Gallery, London, UK

The 28th - Sungkok Museum, Seoul, South Korea

The 27th - Cynthia-Reeves Contemporary, New York, USA

SELECTED RECENT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016

Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams, Massachusetts, USA

Lee Jaehyo, Lee Jaesam Exhibition, Inje Museum, South Korea

2015

KIAF 2015, COEX, Seoul, South Korea

RE: Kontemporary-Fermented Souls, New York, USA

Donations Exhibition 'I Dream', Seoul, South Korea

2014

2014 International Fire Sculpture Festival, South Korea

Jeonbuk Artshow 2014, Sori Arts Center of Jeollabuk-do, South Korea

2013

Art of Nature, Opera Gallery, Dubai

The Wood-of tree, from tree, Chung Mun Kyu Museum, South Korea

KIAF 2013, COEX, Seoul, South Korea

Dubai Art Fair, Dubai

Hommage a Whanki, Whanki Museum, Seoul, South Korea

2012

International Desert Art Project 2012, Jaipur, India

KIAF 2012, COEX, Seoul, South Korea

Korean Eye, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

Aqueous, Albemarle Gallery, London, UK



0121-1110=115042

2015 | Stainless Steel Bolts, Nails and Wood | 102 x 102 x 12 cm (40 x 40 x 5 in)



0121-1110=115029

2015 | Wood (Juniper) | 58 x 178 x 43 cm (23 x 70 x 17 in)



0121-1110=115097

2015 | Stainless Steel Bolts, Nails and Wood | 74 x 128 x 7 cm (29 x 50 x 3 in)