Yooyun Yang

Yooyun Yang (b. 1985, Seoul, South Korea) transforms estranged moments and overlooked crevices of everyday life into enigmatic visual excerpts. Yang, trained in oriental painting, creates diluted acrylic paintings on Jangji paper—traditional Korean handmade paper crafted from the mulberry tree bark—yielding a distinct layered and nuanced quality. Her paintings suggest their photographic sources, and through her use of cropped close-ups, shadow and composition, the familiar becomes uncanny and cinematic. They conjure the psyche of contemporary urban living, capturing a unique sense of alienation and intensity, which she refers to as the "age of anxiety".

Yang's solo exhibitions were recently showcased in Stephen Friedman Gallery (New York, 2025 ; London, 2023), Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong, 2024), Primary Practice (Seoul, 2023), Night Gallery (Los Angeles, 2023), CHAPTER II (Seoul, 2022), Amado Art Space/Lab (Seoul, 2019) and OCI Museum of Art (Seoul, 2014), among others. Yang was selected as one of Korea Arts Management Service's "Korean Artists Today 2024" and was recipient of the 2019 Chongkundang Yesuljisang. In 2022, her works were exhibited in the 58th Carnegie International in Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh, 2022).

Her works have also been exhibited at HITE Collection (Seoul, 2025), Coreana Museum of Art (Seoul, 2024), Thaddeus Ropac (Seoul, 2024), Andrew Kreps (New York, 2024), Taipei Biennial (2023), Ulsan Art Museum (2023), Tina Kim Gallery (New York, 2022), the 8th Chongkundang Yesuljisang in Sejong Museum of Art (Seoul, 2021), Seongnam Cube Art Museum (2019), and National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Cheongju, 2019), among others.

Yang currently lives and works in Seoul, South Korea.

Education

2010 MFA in Oriental Painting, Graduate School of Sungshin Women's University, Seoul, South Korea

2008 BFA in Oriental Painting, Sungshin Women's University, Seoul, South Korea

Solo Exhibition

2025 "Uncommon Sight", Stephen Friedman Gallery, New York, USA

2024 "With Hands", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong

2023 "Afterglow in between", Primary Practice, Seoul, South Korea
"Stranger", Night Gallery, Los Angeles, California, USA
"Passing Time", Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK

2022 "Face", Chapter II, Seoul, South Korea

2019 "I know the day will come", Amado Art Space/Lab, Seoul, South Korea

2016 “distrust and overtrust”, Gallery Lux, Seoul, South Korea

2014 “They (I, You, He, and We) Cry”, OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

2013 “The full night”, Gallery Bundo, Deagu, South Korea

2012 “Daydream”, Gallery SoSo, Paju, South Korea

2010 “Scar”, Ccot+Incubator, Seoul, South Korea

2009 “Humble heart”, SSE Project, Seoul, South Korea
“The Night Before the Storm”, Window Gallery, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, South Korea

Group Exhibitions

2025 “Duet”, WSA, New York, USA
“The figurative is not the exception but the rule”, HITE Collection, Seoul, South Korea
“Heroes for Ghosts, A Heart is Made of Many Folds”, sangheeut, Seoul, South Korea
“Secret 7’”, NOW Gallery, London, UK
“The Force of Things”, Space ISU, Seoul, South Korea

2024 “Time to Dance with Life and Art”, Sejong Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
“Anxieties, when Shared”, Coreana Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
“Echoes, ripples, buzz’d whisper”, Stephen Friedman Gallery, New York, USA
“Eighteen Painters”, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, USA
“Secret 7”, NOW Gallery, London, UK
“Nostalgics on realities”, Thaddeus Ropac, Seoul, South Korea

2023 “The Place I Am”, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK
“Small World” - Taipei Biennial 2023, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
“Semi Art Community Project: Boogie Woogie Art Museum”, Ulsan Art Museum, Ulsan, South Korea
“K-Arts Creative Studio Year End Exhibition: Cross Road”, Korea National University of Arts, Seoul, South Korea
“Support Sarubia 2023”, Project Space Sarubia, Seoul, South Korea

2022 “House for the Inhabitant Who Refused to Participate”, Tina Kim Gallery, New York, USA
“BGA INDEX: OPEN STORAGE”, BGA INDEX, Seoul, South Korea
“RENT”, Amado Art Space, Seoul, South Korea
“Is it morning for you yet?” - 58th Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
“Korean and Eastern Painting”, Gallery Towed, Tokyo, Japan; Finch Arts, Kyoto, Japan and Jungganjijeom II, Seoul, South Korea
“From Now to Now”, Ulsan Jung-gu Munhwaui-geori Modern Art Festival, Ulsan, South Korea
“The SoSo Special”, The SoSo, Seoul, South Korea

2021 The 8th Chongkundang Arts Award, Sejong Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
“Eerie”, KYOBO art space, Seoul, South Korea
“Songs Without Words”, Gallery SoSo, Paju, South Korea

2020 “Semantic Network”, CHAPTER II, Seoul, South Korea
“White Darkness”, Space K, Gwacheon, South Korea
White Block Studio Final Report Exhibition of Resident Artists – “The Wider”, White Block Studio, Heyri Art Valley, Paju, South Korea

2019 “A solid disequilibrium”, Bukgu Art Studio, Ulsan, South Korea
“More than Words”, Seongnam Cube Art Museum, Seongnam, South Korea
“The Adventures of Korean Painting: I Will Go Away All by Myself”, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Cheongju, South Korea
“Evolving Art Language: Painting”, Cheongju University Chungseok Gallery, Cheongju, South Korea
“Time of painting”, Sejong Center, Seoul, South Korea
“The Sea Will Not Sink”, Artspace Boan 1942, Seoul and Ansan Arts Center, Ansan, South Korea
“DMZ”, Culture Station Seoul 284, Seoul, South Korea

2018 “Matters of Women”, Seoul National University Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
“F1963 Special Exhibition – Steel-Being”, F1963, Busan, South Korea
“Voices Untraced”, Gallery OOOJH, Seoul, South Korea
“We are Star Stuff”, DOOSAN Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2017 “GCC 2017 Year End Exhibition: Bracketing”, Gyeonggi Creation Center, Ansan, South Korea
“October”, ARKO Art Center, Seoul, South Korea
“Public Art New Hero”, JCC Art Center, Seoul, South Korea
“Onymacris Unguicularis”, Trunk Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
“Ringwanderung”, Alternative Art Space IPO, Seoul, South Korea
“About Angel of History”, Amado Art Space, Seoul, South Korea
“GCC Preview Exhibition: Drifting Unconsciousness”, Gyeonggi Creation Center, Ansan, South Korea
“2017 AIR Program Final Exhibition”, Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, South Korea
“The Cameraperson”, Gallery 175, Seoul, South Korea

2016 “Nocturnal Animals in the White Night”, Hapjungjigu, Seoul, South Korea
“Journey to a Fluid Island”, Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
“Incheon Art Platform Open Studio Exhibition: Wet Paint”, Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, South Korea
“Residency Festival: Sensible Reality”, Seoul Citizen Hall, Seoul, South Korea
“How to Tell Without Telling”, Wumin Art Center, Cheongju, South Korea

2015 “Darkness”, Datz Museum of Art, Gwangju, South Korea
“The Sixth Sense - OCI Young Creatives 5th Anniversary Exhibition”, OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

2014 “Inner Voices”, Danwon Museum of Art, Ansan, Seoul, South Korea
“Tamed by Night”, Wumin Art Center, Cheongju, South Korea
Joy of Painting 2014 Ode to Art “Ode to Painting”, Hanwon Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

2013 “Real Landscape, True Reflection”, OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
“Black Square”, Gallery 101, Seoul, South Korea

2012 “Experimental Art Project Part 1: Manner and Scene”, Daegu Art Factory, Daegu, South Korea
“Thinking of SARUBIA”, LEE HWAIK Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
“Beyond Bridge Part ll”, Bridge Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2011 “What I Saw”, Project Space Sarubia, Seoul, South Korea

2010 “The End of The World”, Seogyo Art Space, Seoul, South Korea
“Becoming a Collector”, Sonofactory, Seoul, South Korea
“Do Window Volume 2’, GALLERY HYUNDAI Gangnam Space, Seoul, South Korea
“Bibliotheque”, KT&G Sangsangmadang, Seoul, South Korea
“SeogyoSixty 2010: The Imaginary Archive: 120 Perspectives”, KT&G Sangsangmadang, Seoul, South Korea

2009 “A way of self-confession”, Gallery SoSo, Paju, South Korea
“PROPOSE”, UNC Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2008 “ASYAAF”, Seoul Railway Station Old Bldg, Seoul, South Korea
“Art at Home: Wonderful Life”, DOOSAN Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
“Persona”, GUMA Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Grants & Awards

2024 Korean Artists Today 2024, Korea Arts Management Service, South Korea

2022 Korea National University of Arts Residency, Seoul, South Korea

2020 CHAPTER II Residency, Seoul, South Korea

2019 The 8th Chongkundang Yesuljisang, South Korea
Seoul Young Artists Support Program, Seoul, South Korea

2018 Artist Research, space imsi, Incheon, South Korea
White Block Studio, Cheonan, South Korea

2017 Resident Artists of Gyeonggi Creation Center, Ansan, South Korea
Peace and Coexistence Art Community, Neng Sheng Xing Factory, Tainan, Taiwan and Space Heem, Busan, South Korea

2016 7th Resident Artists of Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, South Korea

2013 2014 OCI YOUNG CREATIVES, OCI Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

2009 The 1st Arko Art Center Young Artist Workshop, Seoul, South Korea

Collections

Government Art Bank of National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, South Korea
OCI Museum of Art, South Korea
Seongnam Art Bank, South Korea
Seoul National University Museum of Art, South Korea

Publications

2022 *Is it morning for you yet? 58th Carnegie International*, Carnegie Museum of Art, USA

2018 *Ethics of delay*, Vostok Press, Seoul, South Korea
Picture Window Mirror, Vostok Press, Seoul, South Korea