

BOHNCHANG KOO

Seoul, South Korea, 1953

Lives and works in Seoul

Koo's work has always dealt with the inexorable passage of time. He captures still and fragile moments, attempting to reveal the unseen breath of life. In his own words: 'Like a small spark that leads to a big fire, sometimes my biggest artistic project begins with trivial matters such as a piece of photograph that I encountered or a line of phrase that I read to pass time'.

Koo earned his diploma in photography at Fachhochschule, Hamburg, Germany in 1985 and is a most highly regarded teacher and curator in addition to being fundamental in shaping and promoting contemporary South Korean photography. He is a professor of video and photography at Kyungil University. His work has been exhibited in numerous solo and collective exhibitions in countries as South Korea, Japan, Germany, France, Denmark and USA.

He was an artistic director for 2008 Daegu Photo Biennale and one of the collaborating curators for Photoquai.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2016

White Vessels, Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

花 (*Flower*), Shinsegae Gallery Incheon, Incheon, South Korea

花 (*Flower*), Shinsegae Gallery Gwangju, Gwangju, South Korea

2015

Porcelain Time, Yido gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Koo Bohnchang, Nanohana gallery, Hakone, Japan

2014

White on White, Villa Flor, S-chanf, Switzerland

Open End, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan, Italy

Dong Gang Photography Award Exhibition, Dong Gang Museum of Photography, Yeongwol, South Korea

Koo Bohnchang Archives: 18 Exhibitions, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea

Encounter 'Korean Early Modernist and Modernist of Photographers', Trunk Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Jung Hai-chang: An Encounter with the Still Life Works of Koo Bohnchang, Trunk Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2013

Slow Talk, Ivorypress, Madrid, Spain

Interpretation of Surface, Bundo Gallery, Daegu, South Korea

The Interpretation of Landscape, Jhee Gallery, Gwangju, South Korea

Happy Memories, Ryugaheon Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2011

Bohnchang Koo, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Snow, Jeju Island, Trunk Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

The Baptist, Nuda gallery, Daejeon, South Korea

2010

Plain Beauty: Korean White Porcelain / Photographs by Bohnchang Koo, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA

Masks, Stone Art Museum, Duseon Art Museum, Jeju, South Korea

ivorypress

2009

Vessel. Soap. Interiors, Galerie Camera Obscura, Paris, France
Purity, Galerie Raum mit Licht, Vienna, Austria
Pencil of Nature, Gallery Bow, Ulsan, South Korea

2008

In the Beginning, Trunk Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
Coolness and Passion, MBC Gallery M, Daegu, South Korea

2007

Bohnchang Koo, Goeun Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea
Galerie 206, Berlin, Germany
Soap, Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2006

Hasted Hunt Gallery, New York, USA
Vessel, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
Koo Bohnchang, Kahitsukan, Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art, Kyoto, Japan

2005

Portraits of Time, White Room Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
La Beauté endormie, Langon, France

2004

Masks / White, Galerie Camera Obscura, Paris, France

2003

Bohnchang Koo: Recent Work, Ricco Maresca Gallery, New York, USA
Masks, The Museum of Photography, Seoul, South Korea
White / In the Beginning, Picture Photo Space, Osaka, Japan

2002

Fragile Tremors, San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, USA
Masterworks of Contemporary Korean Photography, Peabody Essex Museum, Massachusetts, USA
In the Beginning, Shadai Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2001

Base Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Prinz Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
Samsung Rodin Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
Patricia Sweetow Gallery, San Francisco, USA

2000

White Series, Ricco Maresca Gallery, New York, USA
Good-Bye Paradise, Galleri Image, Aarhus, Denmark

1999

Flow, Gallery Won, Seoul, South Korea

1995

In the Beginning, Gallery Ississ, Kyoto, Japan
Breath, Seomi Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

ivorypress

1993

Good-Bye Paradise, Seomi Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

1990

The Sea of Thought, Seomi Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

1989

Bohnchang Koo, Sunny Gate Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan

1988

Clandestine Pursuit in the Long Afternoon, Gallery Busan, South Korea

1987

One Minute Monologue, Gallery Wide, Tokyo, Japan

Photo Interform, Osaka, Japan

1985

Twelve Deep Sighs, Hanmadang Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

1984

Fotogenes, Hamburg, Germany

1983

Pine Hill Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2016

Getxophoto 2016, Gexto, Vizcaya, Spain

Vies silencieuses, Galerie Camera Obscura, Paris, France

Chefs-d'œuvre de la céramique coréenne, Grand Palais, Paris, France

Extra Ordinary, Korean Cultural Centre Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Unconscious Aesthetics, Breathing Heritage: Contemporary Korean Ceramics, The Fondation Bernardaud, Limoges, France

Noonbit Collection of Korean Photographer's Works, Ryugaheon gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Unfamiliar Memory, Unfamiliar Time, Unfamiliar Space, Gallery Now, Seoul, South Korea

Public to Private: Photography in Korean Art since 1989, The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea

Offerings, The Terminal Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan

KOREA NOW, Korea Cultural Center, Brussels, Belgium

Cheong Chul Eo Lam, Hyundai Dept. Store Gallery H, Daegu, South Korea

2015

Journey Photos, Gimhae Arts Center, Gimhae, South Korea

People, remembered, Art Space J, Gyeonggi, South Korea

A Homage to Korean Architecture—Wisdom of the Earth, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

Simsimhada, Doosung Paper Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

In the Spirit of George Rose, KF Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Choi Sunu House, Seoul, South Korea

Le Parfum dans tous les sens, Jardins du Palais Royal, Paris, France

BODY, Handok Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy, Eumseong-gun, South Korea

Invitation to Korean Dining, Roma Verso Expo, Roma, Italy

ivorypress

Simple Forms: Contemplating Beauty, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Lies of Lies on Photography, Total Museum, Seoul, South Korea
BEYOND THE BORDERS, Culture Station Seoul 284, Seoul, South Korea
OBIECTA, Giacomo Guidi, Roma, Italy

2014

Kitchen, Onyang Folk Museum, Asan, South Korea
Form as Thinking, Rediscovery of Drawing, Museum SAN, Wonju, South Korea
Korean Beauty: Two Kinds of Nature, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea
Dual Natures in Ceramics, SFO Museum, San Francisco, USA
Admiration of White Porcelain, Seoul Museum, Seoul, South Korea

2013

Korea-China Ceramics Art Exhibition, Gyeonggi Ceramic Museum, Gyeonggi, South Korea
Art Space J, Gyeonggi, South Korea
Sakura, Tanakaya Gallery, Hirosaki, Japan

2012

MEGA SEOUL 4DECADES, The Museum of Photography, Seoul, South Korea
Motherhood: Mother Images in Korean Art, Ewha Womans University Museum, Seoul, South Korea
달하 노피곰 도다샤 어귀야 머리곰 비취오시라, Ilwoo Space, Seoul, South Korea
Fold III: Useless, Upcycling in Art + Design, Art + Shanghai Gallery, Shanghai, China

2011

Korean Spirit: Six Photographers, AramNuri Arts Center, Goyang, South Korea
Books & Objects, Shinsegae Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
紙花, Kokdu Museum, Seoul, South Korea
Fold3, Art+Shanghai gallery, Shanghai, China

2010

A Positive View, Somerset House, London, United Kingdom
Chaotic Harmony: Contemporary Korean Photography, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California, USA
Eternal Blinking: Contemporary Art of Korea, University of Hawaii, Hawaii, USA
Biennale Internationale de l'Image à Luang Prabang, Luang Prabang, Laos

2009

The Face beyond Faces, Sungkok Museum, Seoul, South Korea
Chaotic Harmony: Contemporary Korean Photography, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
Met First, Yet Familiar, Contemporary Korean Photography, 798 Space, Beijing, China
Art Road 77: With Art, with Artist!, Lee & Park Gallery, Paju, South Korea
The Face beyond Faces, Dong Gang International Photo Festival, Dong Gang Museum of Photography, Yeongwol, South Korea
Dong gang Museum of Photography, Yeongwol, South Korea
2009 Odyssey, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, South Korea
Made in Korea, Hannover Messe, Hannover, Germany
Translated Celadon: The Five Different Stories, Haegang Ceramics Museum, Icheon, South Korea
Three Photographers, Canon Plex, Seoul, South Korea
Problem, Dr. Park Gallery, Yangpyeong-gun, South Korea
Valentine's Day! Art for You!, 915 Industry Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
Artists and Moon Jars, Gallery Hyundai Gangnam, Seoul, South Korea

2008

Gaze, Gallery Grimson, Seoul, South Korea

ivorypress

Back to the Roots, Gallery Soheon, Daegu, South Korea
Bohnchang Koo & Maggie Taylor, Verve Gallery of Photography, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
Contemporary Korean Photographs 1948–2008, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea
Inspired Simplicity: Contemporary Art from Korea, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA
Treasures Within, Seúl Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
Emotional Scenes, Blanca Berlín Gallery, Madrid, Spain
Korean Art Today: The World of Expression, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, South Korea

2007

Chuseok–Korean Harvest Festival Gallery Talk ‘The Korean Moon Jar, The British Museum, London, United Kingdom
Painterly Photos, LeeHwaik Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
Void in Korean Art, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

2005

Stilled, Gallery 339, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

2004

Water, FotoFest, Houston, USA
What Happens between Art and Popular Culture, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea

2003

Facing Korea, Foam Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
East of Eden, 14 Wharf Road, London, United Kingdom

2002

Two Korean Photographers, Photo-Eye Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
Korean Contemporary Photography, Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan; Mediatheque, Sendai, Japan
Floating, Art Center Silkeborg Bad, Silkeborg, Denmark
Everyman: A Search for the Male Form, Camera Work, San Francisco, USA

2001

Awakening, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney, Australia

2000

Standing on the Threshold of Time, Odense Foto Triennale, Odense, Denmark
Contemporary Korean Photographers, FotoFest, Houston, USA
Moonlight Becomes You: A Thousand and One Nights of Peace on Earth, The Center for Photography at Woodstock, New York, USA

1999

Phenomena, Friends of Photography, Ansel Adams Center, San Francisco, USA
Fragments of Document and Memory, 3rd Tokyo International Photo–Biennale, Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan

1998

Landscape and Man, Östasiatiska Museum, Stockholm, Sweden
Alienation and Assimilation, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago, USA

1996

A.O.I. Gallery, New México, USA
Art at Home, Seomi Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

ivorypress

1995

Gwangju Museum of Modern Art, Gwangju, South Korea
Sonje Museum of Contemporary Art, Gyeongju, South Korea
Body or Gender, Gallery Nun, Seoul, South Korea

1994

Pima Community College Art Gallery, Arizona, USA

1993

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia

1990

Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, USA

1988

The New Wave of Photography, Walkerhill Art Center, Seoul, South Korea

1987

Lying Down as If Being Dead with Narrow Eyes, Hanmadang Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

AWARDS

2015

Presidential Citation Award, South Korea

2014

Dong Gang Photography Award, South Korea

2003

Gangwon Documentary Prize, South Korea

2000

Lee Myoungdong Prize, South Korea

COLLECTION

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, USA
Busan Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea
Dancing Bear/W.M. Hunt, New York, USA
Denver Art Museum, Denver, USA
Elena Ochoa Foster, Madrid, Spain
Fondation Herzog, Basel, Switzerland
Goeun Museum of Photography, Busan
Jeju Museum of Contemporary Art, Jeju
Kahitsukan, Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art, Kyoto, Japan
Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
Daejeon Museum of Art, Daejeon, South Korea
Musée Carnavalet, Paris, Francia
Musée Guimet, Paris, Francia
Museum of Art and Craft, Hamburg, Germany
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA

ivorypress

Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka, Japan
National Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea
Newhouse Collection, New York, USA
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
Reykjavík Museum of Photography, Reykjavík, Iceland
Sammlung Anne Maria Jagdfeld, Berlin, Germany
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California, USA
Seattle Asian Art Museum, Seattle, USA
Art Sonje Museum, Seoul, South Korea
Shadai Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Art Sonje Museum, Gyeongju, South Korea
State Library, Victoria, Australia
AmorePacific Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
British Museum, London, United Kingdom
The Buhl Collection, New York, USA
The Museum of Photography, Seoul, South Korea
National Folk Museum of Korea, South Korea
Ockrang Cultural Foundation, Seoul, South Korea

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books and Catalogues (selection)

2015

Simsimhada, Doosung Books Seoul
White Vessels, Yido, Seoul

2014

DMZ, Noonbit, Seoul, South Korea
Vessel + White, Danilo Montanari Editore, Ravenna
How to Capture the Touching Moment, Culturegrapher, South Korea

2013

Slow Talk, Ivorypress, Madrid

2010

Koo Bohnchang, Kukje gallery, Seoul

2009

Purity, Galerie Raum mit Licht, Vienna

2008

A Perspective on 1980, Wow Image, Seoul

2007

Everyday Treasures, Rutles, Tokyo, Japan
Vessel, Rutles, Tokyo, Japan

2006

Koo Bohnchang, The Kahitsukan, Kyoto
Deep Breath in Silence, Hangil Art, Paju, South Korea

ivorypress

Revealed Personas, Hangil Art, Paju, South Korea
Vessels for the Heart, Hangil Art, Paju, South Korea

2004

Portraits of Time, Homi, Seoul, South Korea
Koo Bohnchang: Mask, The Museum of Photography, Seoul
Koo Bohnchang, Youlhwadang, Gyeonggi

2003

Bohnchang Koo, Hysteric Nine, Hysteric Glamour, Tokyo, Japan

1998

In the Beginning, WorkShop 9, South Korea

1994

Art Vivant, Contemporary Korean Artists, Sigongsa, Seoul, South Korea
Simsimhada, Doosung Books, Seoul

1992

The Sea of Thought, Hangil, Paju, South Korea