Exhibition Title: Dual Realities
Period: April 7th – May 8th 2011
Place: Arario Gallery, Seoul, 149-2 Sogyuk-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul, 110-200
Artist: Han Sungpil, b. 1972
Works: 16 works (photography/installation/video)

Arario Gallery Seoul proudly presents artist Han Sungpil’s solo exhibition Dual Realities from April 7th to May 8th 2011. Exhibited works include new additions to the Façade Project, an on-going series of work dealing with subject of two realities since 2004, experimentation in three video works, and installation works. The exhibition reflects the modern man’s desires to experience the ideal within reality.

Using the most realistic yet imaginary medium of photography, Han Sungpil’s on-going series of work Façade Project is one of the most evocative works of this generation. Meaning the front side or the whole side of a building, and metaphorically suggesting the exterior or appearance of a matter, the word façade has mutated into an everyday term referring to the “dust layer”. At conservation construction sites of traditional architecture or cultural artifacts in Europe, the dust layer becomes a form of public art as it shows images of famous paintings by masters or the image of the building after the construction. One might also find trompe l’oeil paintings on parts of old building walls, communicating with the public and adding elements of fun in everyday life. Although those façades are ultimately just an illusion, they become a delightful medium communicating with by-passers. An artist who masterfully applies the trends and spirit of this generation into his work, Han’s façade projects wrap around construction sites and buildings to engage with the public.

Two Types of Façade

Han’s façade series has been under progress of evolution in preparation for this solo exhibition. Among the exhibited works, the piece that shines when brightly illuminated, and the image of glass-walled buildings, will be lit up in light box. The light boxes will be installed in the mirror room covered in Barrisol Fabric, where repetitive flickering is regulated in time lag between the mirror and the images. The trompe l’oeil works depicting warm pastoral scenes on the entire surface will be shown framed like his past works. The interesting aspect of Han’s works is that buildings are captured in multiple angles, and the images from various vantage points are combined into one. Most of
the images pursue the serenity and beauty of pastoral landscape, as well as witty and delightful everyday scenes, such as doves on the roof, fresh trees and shrubs, people in love, and people talking on the phone.

Imagination in History, and Now

This exhibition also presents works in which imagination and reality, key words that penetrate Han Sungpil’s works, reflect the present reality. The works rooted from the artist’s approach to the current context of (Karl Heinrich Marx 1818~1883) and (Friedrich Engels 1820~1895), the two major figures of Marxism, the system of social political ideology.

In Berlin, Germany, the birthplace of Marx and Engels and their ideologies, there is a park called Marx-Engels Forum constructed by the East German government. On April 4th 1986, the monuments of Marx and Engels that weigh 2 tons were installed in the park, making it one of the most important places in the city. When the Berlin Wall fell three years later in 1989, the German Federation government proposed taking down the monuments. The city residents resisted; thus, the figures are still standing to this day.

However, in September 2010, the monuments came face-to-face with extreme changes in their fate, when the expanding city adopted a new city planning which included the construction of new lines of Berlin underground. As if Marx’s legendary exclamation “Worker of All Lands, Unite!” engraved on his epitaph united all the workers at the site of the construction, they dug up the monuments, and turn them into a laughing stock by marking on their heads a target point like a Bindi (a dot marked in the middle of Hindi women’s forehead). In the end, the monuments were relocated to a different location. Ironically, instead of being positioned to face the East, the origin of their values, they were repositioned to face the West: the symbolic place of capitalism and democracy which they anticipated to collapse.

Through Façade Project, and other installation and video works in the exhibition, Dual Realities reflects on the duality of reality and imagination. With a camera in his hand, artist Han Sungpil is instinctively responsive to his contemporary context.
© Additional Information

Reference work images

You can download image sources and information from Arario Gallery's Web Hard.
www.webhard.co.kr ID: arariogallery PW: arario

GUEST Folder→ Download→ 3.ARARIO GALLERY_SEOUL→ Han Sungpil_Press Release Folder

© Enquiries

Su Jung Kim
sue@arariogallery.com
010-5056-8869 / 041)640-6263  02)723-6190

YoungJoo Lee
yj@arariogallery.com
010 9256 1491 / 041)640-6263  02)723-6190

© Address

Arario Gallery Seoul
149-2 Sogyuk-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul, 110-200
Telephone: (02) 723-6190

Hours
Tuesday – Sunday
10:00 am – 07:00 pm
*Closed on Mondays

www.arariogallery.com
Han Sungpil, b. 1972

Education

2003 ~ 2004    MA in Curating Contemporary Design with commendation at Kingston University, London (Delivered in collaboration with the Design museum, London)

1993 ~ 1999    BA in Fine Arts (Photography medium) with distinction at Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Korea

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2011       Dual Realities, Arario Gallery, Seoul, Korea
2010       In Between Layers, (Gallery Zandari, Seoul, Korea)
2008       RE: Presentation (SEO Gallery, Seoul, Korea)
2007       Façade: Face_cade  (Gallery Zandari, Seoul, Korea)
2006       The Sea I dreamt - The 16th International Festival of Photography :
            Bratislava Month of Photography 2006 (Bratislava, Slovakia)
2006       The Sea I dreamt (Lightcontemporary, London, U.K)
2005       My Sea (Goethe Institute, Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
2005       Blue Jungle - Displaced Spaces (Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Indonesia)
2004       The Sea I Dreamt - The 10th International Biennial of Photography & Photo-Related Art ‘Houston Fotofest 2004’ (Houston Fotofest Headquarters gallery, Texas, U.S.A.)

Selected Group Exhibitions

2011       Façade –12th Bienal International de Fotografía de Córdoba , Cordoba, Spain
2010       Last Call, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin, Germany
2010       Chaotic Harmony:Contemporary Korean Photography,
            Santa Barbara Museum of Art, U.S.A
2010       Man Ray's Photography & His Heritage, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
2010       Maden Pictures, Arario Gallery, Cheonan, Korea
2009       Photography is Dead … , Three White Walls Gallery, Birmingham, U.K
2009       The Photograph as Contemporary Art, Doosan Gallery, Seoul, Korea
2008       Then & Now – Momories of the Future, Daegu Photo Biennale, Exco, Daegu in Korea
2008       Olympics & Love, Pingyao International Photography Festival, Pingyao, China
2008       Escenarios Emocionales English Title: Emotional Scenarios - PHotoEspaña
2007 The Alchemy of Shadows – The 3rd Lianzhou International Photo Festival
Granary Factory, Lianzhou, China
2007 Pass the Picture, Goethe Institute, Berlin, Germany
2007 Mysterries, Secrets, Illusions – Kaunas Photo 07
Kaunas Picture Gallery, M.K.Ciurlionis National Museum, Kaunas in Lithuania
2007 Co-exist, Foil Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2007 In Touch of the Present – Korean Artists Collaboration, Wada Fine Arts, Tokyo in Japan
2007 Open Studio3, Old Jeonnam Province Hall & Uijae Studio
2007 Photographs by the Next Generation: Young Portfolio Acquisitions 2006
  Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Yamanashi, Japan
2007 Danginri Culture Factory (Ssamzie Space, Seoul, Korea)
2007 Obsesiones - Obras de la Colección Fotográfica del MNBA
  (National Museum of Fine Arts, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
2007 Contemporary Korean Photography_KOREANEW DAYS
  (Dome Unenia, Bratislava in Slovakia)

Public Installation Projects
2011 Open Water (18th Street Art Center, Santa Monica, CA, U.S.A)
2010 Melting Space (The Goyang Cultural Foundation, Goyang, Korea)
2010 New World Square Project (ARARIO Green Sculpture Park, Cheonan, Korea)
2010 RE(Wrapping + Eco Bag)Cycling Project (Gallery Zandari, Seoul, Korea)
2009 How to Lie with SPACE, (Space Group, Seoul, Korea)

Permanent Collection
Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts (Yamanashi, Japan) / Selasar Sunaryo Art Space
(Bandung, Indonesia) / National Museum of Fine Arts (Buenos Aires, Argentina) / Museum of
New Mexico (Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, U.S.A) / The Photomedia Center (Pennsylvania,
U.S.A) / National Museum of Contemporary Art / Gyeonggido Museum of Art (Gyeonggido,
Korea) / SPACE Group / Hana Bank / NHN (NAVER Group, Seoul, Korea)
Metamorphosis

2011_ Backlit Pigment Print on Flexglas, LED light box, Mixed Media_ 120cm x 162cm x 6.2cm
Mirage_2010_Backlit Pigment Print on black mirror, LED light box, mixed media _120 x 162 x 6.2cm

Reflected Reflection_2010_Backlit Pigment Print on black mirror, LED light box, mixed media _120 x 162 x 6.2cm
Bindi Statues_2010_archival pigment print on canvas_102x130cm
Amor Fati_2010_ Single Channel Video_ 6'02"
Workers of All Lands Unite!_2010_ Single Channel Video_ 2'53"