#### **Press Release**

### A Solo Exhibition by Osang Gwon

Period | Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Venue | Arario Gallery Seoul Cheongdam

Works | 16 works from *The Flat* series, 15 works from *Deodorant Type* series

Opening Reception | 6pm, Wednesday, May 9th, 2012

Arario Gallery Seoul Cheongdam is pleased to present the solo exhibition by artist Osang Gwon. The artist's recent body of works will be on display. This is Gwon's first solo exhibition in Korea since his last solo show six years ago in Arario Gallery Seoul Cheonan in 2006.

Gwon is considered the pioneer of a new genre in sculpture, with his on-going research in three different types of form including *Deodorant Type*, *Sculpture*, and *The Flat* series.

In particular, his photo sculptures *Deodorant Type* series—in which photographs of the subject are glued on to the actual form of the subject made of light material such as Styrofoam—has become a widely-recognized work that reinvents the flat into sculptural. *The Flat* series presents advertisement images that are cut out from magazines, mounted on a flat surface, re-photographed, and then assembled in one image. While representing the subject, Gwon's works repeatedly transform back and forth between two-dimensional photograph and three-dimensional sculpture, freely crossing over boundaries of flat and sculpture, real object and its image, and reality and fantasy.

The interesting aspect about this solo exhibition by Gwon is that most of the photographic images, the main component of the sculptures, were originally gathered by surfing the internet. Gwon boldly gives up the splendid details of high-resolution photographs as seen in his previous photo sculptures, and embraces images of various resolutions found on the internet. Upon closer look, one can clearly see the shattering of pixels which occurs when an image is blown up in size. The photography's aesthetic and directive role in completing the sculpture is replaced by the pixel and its role of transforming a subject in media world to sculpture in reality.

Gwon's new working process using internet media mimics 'searching on the internet', which is the fastest and easiest way to find information today. Search results easily found on-line propose surface-level solutions to people today looking for quick answers. This also reflects Gwon's fascination on trickery of deodorants, something which conceals a certain smell and replaces it with a new scent, and demonstrates why Gwon titles his sculptural works *Deodorant Type* series. Thus, the infinite assemblage

of on-line images of a certain subject actually reflects a third-person perspective which conceals the truth of the subject.

The recent works from *The Flat* series is completed by cutting out all images from one magazine and putting them together on a flat surface. Monthly magazines are filled with countless products and their images, which have been elaborately and strategically refined in order to spark the consumerist desires. Putting all the images together on one surface, Gwon's work demonstrates a compact summary of public desires of a certain period. Activating the imagination, these images in dark lines have been intentionally re-captured with a lower-resolution camera, transforming the inflated and provocative images from magazines into unclear images.

As opposed to the existing photo sculptures of individual human forms, the three new works in this exhibition including the bust, Flat series and Deodorant Type series, constitute a combined assemblage of human bodies and animals in various postures. Measuring over 3 meters tall, the sculpture of different subjects entangled into one reveals its grandiose form within a tight structure. While seemingly referencing the human body posture and structure of traditional Greek sculptures, Gwon's works also reflect the stereotypical position of modern attire and advertisement in media today. In addition, the lion in the large scale sculpture is created by combining many images of lions from the media. This exhibition demonstrates Gwon's ability to transcend time and space, and the artist's proposition of a new methodology of contemporary sculpture which can represents any subject.

#### About the artist

Osang Gwon (b. 1974) studied sculpture at Hongik University. He received international attention through his solo exhibition in Arario Gallery Cheonan in 2006, Arario Gallery Beijing and Manchester Art Gallery in 2008. Gwon has also participated in numerous group exhibitions, including the *Memories of the Future* at Leeum Samsung Museum of Art in 2010, *Manipulating Reality* at the Center of Contemporary Culture Strozzina in 2009, and the South American travelling exhibition *Peppermint Candy* at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Korea in 2007. Osang Gwon presents his solo exhibition at Arario Gallery Seoul Cheongdam in 2012.

#### <u>Images</u>



Untitled 2012\_c-print, mixed media\_118x70x47cm



Untitled 2012\_c-print, mixed media\_118x70x47cm\_detail



Khumbu & Kuma 2012\_c-print, mixed media\_210x95x50cm



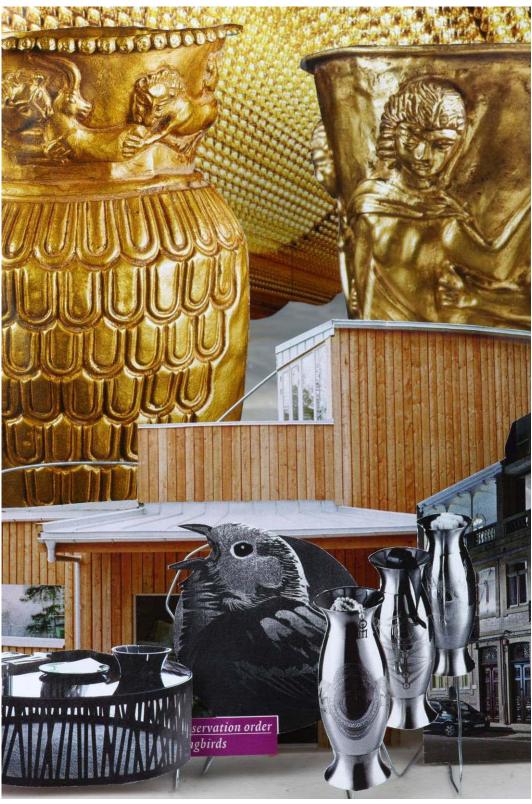
Untitled 2012\_c-print, mixed media\_ 265x142x141cm



Ruby Nike Bape 2012\_c-print, mixed media\_ 265x118x106.5cm



2011, December(Vase)
2011\_lightjet print, wood frame\_154x105cm



2011, November (Tumbler)
2011\_lightjet print, wood frame\_154x105cm



2009, July(Head)
2011\_lightjet print, wood frame\_154x105cm

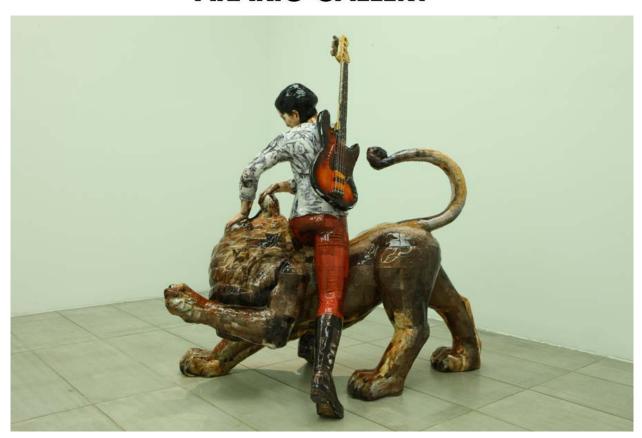
Installation View at ARARIO GALLERY SEOUL cheongdam













**Image courtesy of the Artist and Arario** 

#### OSANG GWON (b. 1974, Seoul,)

Lives and works in Seoul, Korea

#### **Education**

2004 MFA in Sculpture, HongIk University, Seoul2000 BFA in Sculpture, HongIk University, Seoul

#### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2012	ARARIO GALLERY, Seoul cheongdam	Ħ
2011	Adore, Aando Fine Arts, Berlin	
	The Sculpture, Doosan Gallery, Seoul	
2010	Gallery 2, Seoul	
	Doosan Gallery, New York	###
2009	ARARIO GALLERY New York	#
2008	Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester	i
2007	ARARIO GALLERY Beijing	
2006	Gwon, Osang, Union II (Opening show), London	
	The Sculpture, ARARIO GALLERY Cheonan	
2005	Deodorant Type & The Flat, Andrew Shire Gallery & 4-F Gallery, LA	
2001	Deodorant Type, Insa Art Space, The Korea Culture& Arts foundation, Seoul	1

#### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2011 Artists with Arario part 1, ARARIO GALLERY, Seoul cheongdam Embracing the void, HADA Contemporary, London
The purpose of Life, Pohang Museum of Steel Art, Pohang

The purpose of Ene, I oming interest of Section, I oming

Chopping Play, ION Gallery, Singapore

Collector's Stage, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

2010 Memories of Future, Leeum, Seoul

Korean Eye: Fantastic Ordinary, Saatchi gallery, London; The Arts House, Singapore;

The Seoul Museum of Art, Gyeonghuigung, Seoul; The Korea Foundation Cultural Centre, Seoul

Negotiations, Today Art Museum, Beijing

Roundabout Collection, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington

MAN RAY'S PHOTOGRAPHY & HIS HERITAGE, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul

NY Photo Festival, Smack Mellon, New York

On the Cutting Edge - Aspects of Korean Contemporary Photography, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung

Present Tense: An Imagined Grammar of Portraiture in the Digital Age, The National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

A POSITIVE VIEW, Summerset House, London

Artists with Arario, ARARIO GALLERY, Seoul samcheong; Cheonan

2009 Art & Techne, Jeju Museum of Art, Jeju

Peppermint Candy: Contemporary Art from Korea, National Museum of Korea, Gwacheon

Manipulating Reality, the Center for Contemporary Culture Strozzina, Florence



	Conflicting Tales - Inaugural Exhibition of the Burger Collection, Zimmerstrasse, Berlin
	Logic of Sensibility, Interalia Gallery, Seoul
2008	Youth Portraits, Avanthay Contemporary, Zurich
	Peppermint Candy: Contemporary Art from Korea, National Museum of Fine Arts, Buenos Aire
	Asian Art Triennale, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester
	Global EurAsia Special Exhibition, ART COLOGNE, Cologne
2007	Mad Love, Arken Museum for Modern Art, Copenhagen
	Wonderland: Contemporary Korean Art, The National Art Museum of China, Beijing
	Peppermint Candy: Contemporary Art from Korea, Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago
	Urban Reviews Seoul: Space, People, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen(ifa), Stuttgart, Berlin
2006	Give Me Shelter, Union Gallery, London
2005	Beautiful Cynicism, ARARIO GALLERY Beijing
	Seoul; Until Now, Charlottenborg Udstillingbygning, Copenhagen
	Post IMF, Art Ark Gallery, Shanghai
2004	Young Artists from Korea, China and Japan, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwhachon
	Officina Asia, Galleria d'arte moderna, Bologna
	UNUSUAL COMBINATION, Plus Gallery, Nagoya
	Real Reality, Kukje Gallery, Seoul
	Out the Window, The Japan Foundation Asia Center, Tokyo
2003	Unique, Gallery VU, Paris
	Facing Korea-ID, FOAM (Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam), Amsterdam
	Mobile, Alternative Space Care Of, Milano
2002	ORIENT-EXTREME, Le Lieu Unique, Nantes
	Area of Photograph, Museum of Art Saitama, Saitama
	Area of Photograph, Sendai mediatheque, Sendai
	Mirror of daily, Busan Museum of Art, Busan
2001	Silence of the City, Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju
	Alchemy, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul
	Family, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul
2000	Disturbance Exhibition (Selected two person's show), Boda Gallery, Seoul
	Join & Expression, Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwangju
	Expression of the Times- eye& hand, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul
	Error Interchange, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul
	Ji-Rok-Wi-Ma, Seonam Museum, Seoul
1999	Hoboo-Hohyung, Art Sonje Center, Seoul
	Transtion of the Century, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul
	Vacuum-packed Exhibition, Alternative Space Loop, Seoul

#### Residency

2010	Doosan Residency, New York
2005	National Art Studio Changdong, Seoul
2003	Youngeun Artist-in-Residence, Gwangju

#### Collaboration

2011	Collaboration with Vogue Korea, Vogue Korea, PLEATUE, Seoul
2009	Collaboration with W Korea, August Issue, Seoul
	Hoodie on Moment, Nike Sportswear, Gallery HYUNDAI Gangnam Space, Seoul
2008	Collaboration with Haper's Bazaar, Boon the Shop, Seoul
	Collaborative Deodorant-type work with Keane, The cover of album 'Perfect Symmetry', London
	NIKE SU08_DUNK "Be True", Seoul
2006	Collaboration with Fendi, Galley IHN, Seoul
2002	Advertisement of OPAQUE, Department store in Ginza, Tokyo

#### **Collections**

Singapore Art Museum

Leeum

The National Museum of Contemporary Art

Busan Museum of Art, Busan

Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art

Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art

Art Sonje Center

Ssamzi Collection

Asano Institute

Laurence Geoffrey's

Embassy of Switzerland

**David Roberts Art Foundation** 

The Zabludowicz Collection

**Burger Collection** 

Roundabout Collection

Universal Music Group

Arario Collection

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Image

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Exhibition Hour: Tue - Sun 11:00 am - 07:00 pm (closed on Mondays)

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