

ARARIO GALLERY

Press Release

A Solo Exhibition by Osang Gwon

Period | Wednesday, May 9th – Sunday June 24th, 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

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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 represent 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 Strozzi 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.

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Images



Untitled

2012_c-print, mixed media_118x70x47cm

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Untitled

2012_c-print, mixed media_118x70x47cm_detail

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Khumbu & Kuma

2012_c-print, mixed media_210x95x50cm

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Untitled

2012_c-print, mixed media_ 265x142x141cm

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Ruby Nike Bape

2012_c-print, mixed media_ 265x118x106.5cm

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COMMENT

Skivise from left,
risk phone, £50, from
Livorno vase, £45,
"Topsy Mustard Pot",
Asprey, "Le Vaniteux"
by Patrick Neu, for
Tom Warrick. Right:
Lorraine, 1990s,
see p. 102.

2011, December(Vase)

2011_lightjet print, wood frame_154x105cm

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2011, November (Tumbler)

2011_lightjet print, wood frame_154x105cm

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2009, July(Head)

2011_lightjet print, wood frame_154x105cm

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Installation View at ARARIO GALLERY SEOUL cheongdam



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[Image courtesy of the Artist and Arario](#)

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OSANG GWON (b. 1974, Seoul,)

Lives and works in Seoul, Korea

Education

- 2004 MFA in Sculpture, HongIk University, Seoul
- 2000 BFA in Sculpture, HongIk University, Seoul

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 ARARIO GALLERY, Seoul cheongdam
- 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
- 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



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
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, Gyeongju, 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 Strozzi, Florence

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- Conflicting Tales - Inaugural Exhibition of the Burger Collection, Zimmerstrasse, Berlin
Logic of Sensibility, Interlalia Gallery, Seoul
- 2008 Youth Portraits, Avanthay Contemporary, Zurich
Peppermint Candy: Contemporary Art from Korea, National Museum of Fine Arts, Buenos Aires
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 (Fotografmuseum 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

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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 Zabłudowicz 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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