



**Lee Kunyong**

Born 1942 in Sariwon, North Korea  
Lives and works in Seoul, South Korea

## 이 건 용

이건용은 한국 아방가르드 미술의 선구자로, 1960년대 후반부터 **Space and Time 미술학회(ST 그룹)**와 **Avant-Garde (AG 그룹)**을 이끌며 전위적이고 실험적인 미술 운동을 주도했다. 그는 **예술이란 무엇인가?**라는 근본적인 질문을 출발점으로 삼아 신체와 공간의 관계를 지속적으로 탐구해 왔다.

그의 작업은 단순한 회화적 표현을 넘어 퍼포먼스, 비디오, 조각, 설치 등 다양한 매체를 활용하여, 예술이 존재하는 본질적 의미를 찾고자 한다. 그는 신체를 독립적인 조형 요소이자 가장 직접적인 예술 매체로 사용하며, 전시 공간과 관람객 사이에서 작품이 어떻게 관계를 형성하는지를 실험한다.

특히 '드로잉의 방법(Method of Drawing)' 시리즈에서는 신체의 물리적 움직임과 회화적 결과물을 연결하며, 캔버스를 등지고 서서 그리거나, 캔버스 옆에서 팔만을 움직여 하트 형태의 구조를 만들어낸다. 이러한 작업들은 의도적인 조형 행위가 아니라, 신체의 궤적을 그대로 남긴 흔적이라는 점에서 독특하다. 그는 전통적인 회화의 개념을 벗어나 신체 자체가 예술이 되는 방법을 제시하며, 퍼포먼스적 행위를 통해 삶과 예술의 경계를 허무는 실험을 지속하고 있다.

그의 퍼포먼스적 제스처는 대부분 사진, 비디오, 혹은 기억을 통해 기록되며, 이는 기존 전시 공간의 개념을 확장하는 시도로 이어진다. 그는 가장 일상적인 행위 속에서도 예술이 존재할 수 있음을 강조하며, 이를 통해 전통적인 예술 형식과 개념을 재해석한다.

## Lee Kun-Yong

Lee Kun-Yong is a pioneer of Korean avant-garde art, having led the 'Space and Time Art Society (ST Group)' and the 'Avant-Garde (AG Group)' since the late 1960s, spearheading experimental and progressive artistic movements. He has continuously explored the relationship between the body and space, starting from the fundamental question: "What is art?"

His work goes beyond mere pictorial expression, incorporating various media such as performance, video, sculpture, and installation to seek the essential meaning of art's existence. He uses the body as an autonomous sculptural element and the most direct artistic medium, experimenting with how his work interacts with the exhibition space and the audience.

In particular, his 'Method of Drawing' series connects physical movement with pictorial outcomes, as he draws while standing with his back to the canvas or moving his arms beside it to create heart-shaped structures. These works are not intentional compositions but rather traces of bodily movement, making them unique in their approach. By transcending traditional painting, he presents a method where the body itself becomes art, continuously experimenting with blurring the boundaries between life and art through performative actions.

His performative gestures are often documented through photography, video, or memory, leading to an expanded concept of exhibition space. He emphasizes that art exists even in the most ordinary activities, reinterpreting conventional artistic forms and concepts through his work.

## EDUCATION

- 1982 MA, Art Education, Keimyung University, Daegu, Korea  
1967 BFA, Hongik University, Seoul, Korea

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Lee Kun-Yong, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea  
Lee Kun-Yong, Leeahn Gallery, Daegu, Korea  
Lee Kun-Yong, Pace Gallery, Geneva
- 2023 Snail's Galplop, Pace Gallery, New York
- 2022 313 Art Project, Paris, France (Dec. 2022 – Apr. 2023)  
Leeahn Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
Palazzo Caboto, Venice, Italy  
Pace Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2021 Bodyscape, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
- 2019 Form of Now, Pace Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
Lee Kun-Yong\_Relay Life, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, Korea  
Text in Bodyscape, Date Gallery, Busan, Korea  
Body+Scape=Bodyscape, Leeahn Gallery, Daegu, Korea
- 2018 Lee Kun-Yong, Pace Gallery, Beijing, China  
Lee Kun-Yong, Equal Area, 4A Cente for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney, Australia
- 2017 Lee Kun-Yong, Leeahn Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 2016 Event-Logical, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
- 2015 Lee Kun-Yong, UM Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 2014 Lee Kun-Yong in Snail's Gallop, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea
- 2012 Gallery Godo, Seoul, Korea
- 2011 Relay Life, Los Angeles, USA  
Asan Gallery, Asan, Korea
- 2010 Casa di Lago, Gunsan, Korea  
Asan Gallery, Asan, Korea
- 2008 Exhibition for the Winner of the 8th Lee In Sung Art Prize, Daegu Culture and Arts Center, Daegu, Korea  
Lee Kun-Yong: I.NOW.This Place, Bongsan Cultural Center, Daegu, Korea
- 2007 Inmo Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
The Modern Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2002 Sori Art Center, Jeonju, Korea
- 1999 Lee Kun-Yong: Logic Life Commonplace, Fine Arts Center of the Korean Culture and Arts Foundation, Seoul,

Korea

- 1996 Jinpo Cultural Center, Gunsan, Korea
- 1991 Yemac Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1990 Erl Gallery, Jeonju, Korea
- 1989 Now Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1987 P&P Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1986 Kwanhoon Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1985 Yoon Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1984 Soo Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1983 Kwanhoon Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1980 Bundo Theater, Daegu, Korea
- 1979 Taein Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- Namgye Gallery, Daejeon, Korea
- 1977 Taein Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1976 Dasarang Gallery, Seoul, Korea

#### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2023 Experimental Art in South Korea, 1960s-70s, Guggenheim New York (Sep. 2023 – Jan. 2024)
- 2022 Station, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
- Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju, Korea
- Being in the World, Long Museum West bund, Shanghai, China
- The Birth of Art, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, Korea
- 2021 CORPUS GESTUS VOX, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea
- 2020 HYUNDAI 50 - Part II, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
- 2019 Chewing Gum III, Pace Gallery, Hong Kong
- Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s-1990s, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea;
- National Museum of Modern Art (MOMAT), Tokyo Japan; National Gallery Singapore, Singapore
- 2018 Contemporary Art Dictionary, 7 Keywords, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju, Korea
- Renegades in Resistance and Challenge, Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, Korea
- 2017 BARCODE, Yangpyeong Art Museum, Yangpyeong, Korea
- Rehearsals from the Korean Avant-Garde Performance Archive, Korean Cultural Centre, London, UK
- Experimental Art of Suwon in the 1980-1990s: It's Not Quite That, Suwon iPark Museum of Art, Suwon, Korea
- 2016 As the Moon Waxes and Wanes, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea
- Hybridizing Earth, Discussing Multitude, Busan Biennale 2016, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, Korea
- Story Blossoms in Art, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea
- 2015 Dong Geo Dong Rak, Namsangol Hanok Village, Seoul, Korea

- Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Collection Highlights: Untitled, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea
- 2014 Busan Biennale 2014, Voyage to Biennale - 50 Years of Korean Contemporary Art in Overseas Biennales, Busan Cultural Center, Busan, Korea  
Loosely Translated..., Sori Art Center, Jeollabuk-do, Jeonju, Korea
- 2012 2012 Daegu Contemporary Art Festival and Gangjeong: Riverside Rhapsody, The ARC, Daegu, Korea  
50 years of Korean Drawing, Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul, Korea  
The Spectrum of Contemporary Korean Art, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 2010 Korean Avant-garde Drawing 1970-2000, Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
Propose 7, Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
Korean Historical Conceptual Art 1970-80s: Jack-of-all-trades, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea
- 2009 100 Daehangro, Arko Art Center, Seoul, Korea
- 2008 NOW JUMP!, Nam June Paik Art Center, Yongin, Korea
- 2007 Text in Bodyscape, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
Performance Art of Korea 1967-2007, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea  
Restless Hand, Wandering Mind, Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
I'm the Moak, Anywhere You Lay Your Eyes On: The 11 Invited Artists of Jeonbuk, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju, Korea
- 2006 Nature, Environment and Man through Art, Geumgang Nature Art Biennale 2006, Yeonmisan Nature Art Park, Gongju, Korea  
100 Years of Korean Art Part 2: Tradition, Human, Art, Reality, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea
- 2005 Concern on the Way, Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea  
Pocheon Asian Art Festival, Pocheon Banweol Art hall, Pocheon, Korea  
6 Contemporary Artists from Korea, Art Centre Silkeborg Bad, Silkeborg, Denmark  
The 3rd Ssamzie Space Annual Title Match: Lee Kun-Yong vs. Koh Seung-wook, Ssamzie Space, Seoul, Korea  
The Long Breath, Maschinenehaus Essen, Essen, Germany
- 2004 Network of the 21st Century, Minchon Art Center, Jeonju, Korea  
You are My Sunshine: Korean Contemporary Art 1960-2004, Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea  
Re-viewing Daegu Art: Daegu Contemporary Art Festival '74-'79, Daegu Culture and Arts Center, Daegu, Korea  
Inaugural Exhibition of Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju, Korea
- 2003 Drawing: Its New Horizons, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Deoksugung, Seoul, Korea  
The 1st Daegu International Performance Document, Daegu Culture and Arts Center, Daegu, Korea
- 2001 Korean Contemporary Arts from the mid-1960s to mid-1970s: Age of Transition and Dynamics, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea
- 2000 The 3rd Gwangju Biennale: The Facet of Korean & Japanese Contemporary Art, Gwanju Museum of Art,

Gwangju, Korea

Media City Seoul 2000: Subway Project, Seoul City Hall Station, Seoul, Korea

1999 The 4th Culture Group: Environment & Culture, Minchon Art Center, Jeonju, Korea

1996 Asian Contemporary Art Festival, Daegu Culture and Art Center, Daegu, Korea

The Present and Future of Korean Contemporary Art, Hongik Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea

1994 300 Seconds Spot Events, Tuh Gallery, Seoul, Korea

Inaugural Exhibition of "The 4th Culture Group", Performance Art Festival, Gunsan Civic Cultural Center, Gunsan, Korea

1993 The 1st Exhibition of Scattered and Gathered Artists and Art, Do-ol Art Center, Seoul, Korea

1991 DMZ Cultural Movement Exhibition, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, Korea

A Grouping for the Identity of Korean Contemporary Art II: The Art in the 'Reduction' and 'Expansion' Period, Hanwon Gallery, Seoul, Korea

1990 From Panmunjeom to Brandenburg 1945-1990, Sigong Gallery, Seoul, Korea

Proposal from the East, Sagacho Archives, Tokyo

New Spirit of the 90s, Kumho Museum, Seoul, Korea

Celebrating Exhibition for the Opening of Seoul Arts Center, Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul, Korea

1989 Arts as Concept and Method, Gallery 2000, Seoul, Korea

Proposal from the East, Dongsoong Arts Center, Seoul, Korea

Message and Communication, Cheongnam Museum, Seoul, Korea

1988 Korean Contemporary Art Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea

Premonition of Objects, Now Gallery, Seoul, Korea

Today's Art: Horizontality and Verticality, Zukashin Hall, Osaka, Japan

1987 Gallery Hyundai Inaugural Exhibition - Artists of the 1980s, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea

Contemporary Art of Seoul & Yokohama, Art Cosmos Center, Seoul, Korea

Biennale Commissioner's Exhibition of Young Artists, Nouveau Gallery, Busan, Korea

Invitation Exhibition of Contemporary Art '87, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea

1986 The Past and Present of Korean Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea

'86 Contemporary Art of Seoul and Asia, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea

Contemporary Art of Seoul & Yokohama, Kanagawa Kenmin Hall, Yokohama, Japan

'86 Seoul Performance and Installation Art, Art Cosmos Center, Seoul, Korea

Examination on Contemporary Art, Baeksong Gallery, Seoul, Korea

1985 Kunsan International Show '85, Jeonbuk Arts Center, Jeonju, Korea

Experience of Objects, Hu Gallery, Seoul, Korea

1984 Korean Contemporary Art: The Trend of the 1970s, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

Korean Contemporary Art: An Aspect in the Latter Half of the 1970s, Fine Arts Center, Seoul, Korea

- 1983 Grand Exhibition of Shing-hang-sung-wha Group, Spring Gallery, Taipei  
Korean Contemporary Art: An Aspect in the Latter Half of the 1970s, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo;  
Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi; Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo; Fukuoka Art  
Museum, Fukuoka Korean Contemporary Art, The Foundation Eng. António de Alemida, Porto, Portugal
- 1982 Contemporary Paper Craft and Paper Composition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea,  
Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto; The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan  
École de Séoul, Kwanhoon Gallery, Seoul
- 1981 Lisbon International Show '81, National Gallery of Modern Art, Lisbon, Portugal  
The 2nd Contemporary Art Workshop, Dongduk Art Museum, Seoul, Korea  
Drawing '81, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea
- 1980 The 7th ST Exhibition, Dongduk Art Museum, Seoul, Korea  
The 6th Seoul Contemporary Art Festival, Fine Arts Center, Seoul, Korea  
Grand Exhibition of Korean Prints and Drawings, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea  
Contemporary Asian Art Show 1980, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
- 1979 Lisbon International Show '79, National Gallery of Modern Art, Lisbon, Portugal  
École de Séoul, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul  
The 15th Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil  
The 5th Daegu Contemporary Art Festival, Daegu, Korea
- 1978 Trend of the Korean Modern Art for the Past 20 Years, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul,  
Korea  
The 4th Daegu Contemporary Art Festival, Daegu, Korea
- 1977 Event of Two Artists - Lee Kun-Yong and Yoon Jin-sup, Seoul Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
The 6th ST Exhibition, Gyunji Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
The 3rd Daegu Contemporary Art Festival, Daegu, Korea
- 1976 The 5th ST Exhibition, Publishing Culture Hall, Seoul, Korea  
The 8th International Festival of Painting, Grimaldi Castle Museum, Cagnes-sur-Mer, France  
Event of Four Artists, Seoul Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1975 Event of Three Artists, Growrich Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
The 4th AG Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea  
The 2nd Daegu Contemporary Art Festival, Daegu, Korea  
The 4th ST Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea  
SPACE Art Prize Competition Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea  
The 3rd Independent Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea  
Today's Method, Baekrok Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 1974 The 1st Daegu Contemporary Art Festival, Daegu, Korea  
The 3rd ST Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea

Seoul Biennale, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea

1973 The 2nd ST Exhibition, Myeongdong Gallery, Seoul, Korea

The 8th Paris Biennale, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France

1972 The 3rd AG Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea

The 1st Independent Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea

1971 The 2nd AG Exhibition, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea

The 10th Exhibition of Korean Artists Association, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea

The 1st ST Exhibition, National Information Center, Seoul, Korea



## **SELECTED AWARDS**

- 2013     Grand Prize of Korean Arts and Culture
- 2007     The 8th Lee In Sung Art Prize, Lee In Sung Memorial Foundation, Daegu, Korea
- 1979     Grand Prize, Lisbon International Show '79, National Gallery of Modern Art, Lisbon, Portugal

## **SELECTED COLLECTIONS**

- Busan Museum of Art, Busan, Korea
- Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, Korea
- Gidang Art Museum, Seogwipo, Korea
- Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea
- Hongik Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
- Jeju Museum of Art, Jeju, Korea
- Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju, Korea
- LACMA, Los Angeles, California, USA
- Leeum, Smsung Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
- Louis Vuitton Foundation, Paris, France
- National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea
- Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
- Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul Korea
- Suwon Museum of Art, Suwon, Korea
- Tate, London, UK
- The Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, USA
- The Yellow Dragon Library of Kunsan National University, Gunsan, Korea