



Lee Kun-yong

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

Lee Kun-yong, a pioneer of Korean performance art and a leading figure of the 1970s AG and ST groups, established a distinct methodology centered on the body. Following *Corporal Term* (1971), which conceptually expanded art by relocating natural elements onto the gallery floor, his participation in the 1973 Paris Biennale solidified his realization that the artist's own body is the ultimate medium. Departing from traditional materials like stone or wood, Lee treated his body as an index, mapping physical constraints—such as arm length and stride—directly onto the canvas. This integration of mundane, repetitive actions into performance formats birthed his seminal *Bodyscape* series.

His inquiry targets the logical relationship between the body, the viewer's gaze, and space. In *The Logic of Place* (1975), Lee explored how spatial definitions shift with physical movement, a conceptual line that evolved into his signature "Method of Drawing." By painting under strict physical restrictions—such as standing behind, beside, or with his back to the canvas—Lee records pure bodily perception without looking at the surface. Through this, he subverted traditional painting by fundamentally altering the artist's physical positioning during the creative act.

Believing the body is the most direct artistic vehicle, Lee rejects random "happenings" for a structured, analytical approach he terms "event-logical." This interplay of creation and erasure is epitomized in *Snail's Gallop* (1979), where he crawls to draw lines on the floor while simultaneously stepping forward to erase them with his feet. Now in his eighties, Lee remains an active contemporary force, constantly recontextualizing his historic practices to engage with changing times and audiences.

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EDUCATION

1982 MA, Art Education, Keimyung University, Daegu, Korea

1967 BFA, Hongik University, Seoul, Korea

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 - 25 *Lee Kun-Yong*, Gallery Hyundai Dugahun, Seoul, Korea

2024 *Lee Kun-Yong*, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea

Lee Kun-Yong, Leeahn Gallery, Daegu, Korea

Lee Kun-Yong, Pace Gallery, Geneva

2023 *Snail's Gallop*, 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

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2025	<i>55 Years: A Legacy of Modern & Contemporary Art</i> , Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
2024	<i>For What It's Worth: Value Systems in Art since 1960</i> , The Warehouse, Dallas, United States <i>Only the Young: Experimental Art in South Korea</i> , The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, United States <i>Summer Group Show</i> , Pace Gallery, Hong Kong <i>Pace Tokyo: Special Preview</i> , Pace Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2023	<i>Only the Young: Experimental Art in Korea, 1960s–1970s</i> , MMCA, Seoul, Korea; Guggenheim Museum, New York, US; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, US <i>How To Archive</i> , Gyeongnam Art Museum, Changwon, Korea
2022	<i>Station</i> , Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju, Korea <i>Being in the World</i> , Long Museum West bund, Shanghai, China <i>The Birth of Art</i> , Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, Korea
2021	<i>CORPUS GESTUS VOX</i> , Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea
2020	<i>HYUNDAI 50 - Part II</i> , Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
2019	<i>Chewing Gum III</i> , Pace Gallery, Hong Kong <i>Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s-1990s</i> , Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea; National Museum of Modern Art (MOMAT), Tokyo Japan; National Gallery Singapore, Singapore
2018	<i>Contemporary Art Dictionary, 7 Keywords</i> , Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju, Korea <i>Renegades in Resistance and Challenge</i> , Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, Korea
2017	<i>BARCODE</i> , Yangpyeong Art Museum, Yangpyeong, Korea <i>Rehearsals from the Korean Avant-Garde Performance Archive</i> , Korean Cultural Centre, London, UK <i>Experimental Art of Suwon in the 1980-1990s: It's Not Quite That</i> , Suwon iPark Museum of Art, Suwon, Korea
2016	<i>As the Moon Waxes and Wanes</i> , Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea <i>Hybridizing Earth</i> , Discussing Multitude, Busan Biennale 2016, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, Korea <i>Story Blossoms in Art</i> , Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea
2015	<i>Dong Geo Dong Rak</i> , Namsangol Hanok Village, Seoul, Korea Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Collection Highlights: <i>Untitled</i> , Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea
2014	<i>Busan Biennale 2014, Voyage to Biennale - 50 Years of Korean Contemporary Art in Overseas Biennales</i> , Busan Cultural Center, Busan, Korea <i>Loosely Translated...</i> , Sori Art Center, Jeollabuk-do, Jeonju, Korea
2012	<i>2012 Daegu Contemporary Art Festival and Gangjeong: Riverside Rhapsody</i> , The ARC, Daegu, Korea <i>50 years of Korean Drawing</i> , Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul, Korea <i>The Spectrum of Contemporary Korean Art</i> , Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
2010	<i>Korean Avant-garde Drawing 1970-2000</i> , Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea <i>Propose 7</i> , Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea <i>Korean Historical Conceptual Art 1970-80s: Jack-of-all-trades</i> , Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea
2009	<i>100 Daehangro</i> , 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

- 1986 *Invitation Exhibition of Contemporary Art '87, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea*
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, Samsung 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