



Lee Wan

Born in 1979, Seoul, South Korea
Lives and works in Seoul, South Korea

Lee Wan, who represented the Korean Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017, examines the contemporary social structure with a keen perspective and reinterprets them through various visual media. By capturing the inescapable social structure that enforces de-individualized roles, Lee attempts to highlight the systemic problems following the democratization of Asia from a political as well as socio-economic perspective.

In his quintessential series *Diligent Attitude Towards a Meaningless Thing*, Lee employs contract workers to fill the entire canvas with a single color using a size one brush, and then the artist himself finishes the painting by brushing down the canvas in a single stroke from the brush made to fit the entire width of the canvas. The painting, ordered by the artist as an employer and a consumer, fails to be meaningful to neither the workers nor the artist, and instead merely functions as the outcome of diligent efforts to fulfill a contract. Through the series, Lee warns against the future in which individuals are caught in the chain of labor and consumption enforced by the societal structure.

Proper Time, an installation piece that was exhibited in the 57th Venice Biennale, is composed of 668 clocks, each of which runs at its own pace. Engraved on each clock are the name, birthday, nationality, and occupation of the people the artist interviewed. The pace at which the individual's clock runs is determined by the amount of time the individual in question must work in order to afford a meal. The space filled with clocks rotating at different speeds comments on the inequity of capitalistic society that values individuals' time from a standardized point of view.

Winning the first 'Art Spectrum Artist Award' by Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art in 2014, Lee Wan had solo exhibitions at 313 Art Project in 2015 and 2017, and at Daegu Art Museum in 2013. He joined group exhibitions including Korean Pavilion, the 57th Venice Biennale (2017), SPHERES, Galleria Continua, Les Moulins (2014, 2015); Buk Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul (2015); and the Gwangju Biennale (2014).

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EDUCATION

- 2025~ Yonsei University Graduate School of Communication & Arts, D.F.A., Seoul
2024 Dongguk University, M.F.A. in Media Art, Seoul
2004 Dongguk University, B.F.A in Sculpture, Seoul

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Made in Korea: Wig and Straw Shoes*, Coreana Museum, Seoul
2024 *Random Access Memory, Chapter 3: Record & Memory*, House of Woonkyung, Seoul
2023 *Random Access Memory, Chapter 2: Heir*, ACT Ground, Hwasung-si, Korea
2022 *Random Access Memory, Chapter 1: Displacement 0 (Zero), Plad*, Gallerie X, Seoul
2019 *Lee Wan: Solo Exhibition* — 313 Art Project, Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong
2018 *A Billboard Project*, Chicago EXPO — Solo Exhibition & Special Event, Chicago, USA
Counter Balance, Venice Biennale Korean Pavilion (Homecoming Exhibition), Arts Council Korea (ARKO), Seoul
2017 *Counter Balance*, Venice Biennale Korean Pavilion, Venice, Italy
A Diligent Attitude Towards a Meaningless Thing, 313 ART PROJECT, Seoul
2015 *Silence in between*, 313 ART PROJECT, Seoul
2014 *Lee Wan Solo Exhibition*, Doosan Gallery, New York
Lee Wan: Us and Them, Project Space Sarubia, Seoul
2013 *Oh, Pure Love*, Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, Korea
2012 *How to Become Us*, AR Festival, Paju, Korea
2011 *How to Become Us*, Artspace Pool, Seoul
2010 *Forlorn Standard*, Artspace Hue, Seoul
2009 *Life is just like an echo that the sonorous bloody waves*, Total museum The Room, Seoul
2008 *A Forbidden Land*, Miro Space, Seoul

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Sol Mur Temps / Intracaiton 2025, Espace ICARE*, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France
Shifting Terrains – Beyond Black and White (非非黑即白), Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin
We, Such Fragile Beings, PODO Museum, Jeju, Korea
Hello, Family, Hello Museum, Seoul
2024 *Noksan Industrial Complex*, Busan, Korea
Incheon Art Show: Biennale Special Exhibition, Songdo Convensia, Incheon, Korea
Super Collectors, Hyundai Art Stage, Hyundai Trade Center, Seoul
Transistors, Han Pao-Teh Memorial Museum, Tainan, Taiwan
Every Island Is a Mountain, Venice Biennale Korean Pavilion 30th Anniversary Exhibition, Palazzo Malta, Venice
2023 *SIGNAL: Traces and Symptoms*, Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, Korea
The Irreplaceable Human, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark
On Boarding, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul
2021 *Not Easy*, 313 Art Project, Seoul
2018 *SBD Project – A View Part 2*, 313 ART PROJECT, Seoul
SBD Project – A View, 313 ART PROJECT, Seoul
Counterbalance: The Stone and the Mountain, Arko Art Center, Seoul

- The Dictionary of Evil*, Gangwon International Biennale, Chuncheon, Korea
- 2017 *Counterbalance: The Stone and the Mountain*, Korean Pavilion, The 57th Venice Biennale, Venice
- 2016 The 3rd Nanjing International art Festival, Baijia Lake Museum, Nanjing, China
Questioning Sustainability, Museum of Art, Seoul National University, Seoul
 First Sign in Jogjakarta, Cemeti art House, Indonesia
- 2015 *Spheres 8*, Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France (313 ART PROJECT's overseas exhibition)
Accidental Encounter, Buk Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul
Useless, Useful, Culture Factory Osan, Osan, Korea
- 2014 *Kiwon Park, Lee Wan*, 313 ART PROJECT, Seoul
The Young and The Restless, Common Center, Seoul
Spheres 7, Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France (313 ART PROJECT's overseas exhibition)
Burning Down the House, Gwangju Biennale 2014, Gwangju, Korea
Art Spectrum 2014, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul
Common Sense of the East, 175 Gallery, Seoul
Borders and Border Crossings, Pohang Museum, Pohang, Korea
- 2013 *Modernity and Technology*, 284 Seoul Culture Station, Seoul
Art on Farm, Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand
Twilight-The Prospects of Asian Industry, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Howl Space, Tainan City, Taiwan
Love Impossible, Museum of Art, Seoul National University, Seoul
The Next Generation, Doosan Gallery, Seoul
Fascination, And Unseen, Gallery Zandari, Seoul
Turning the State Upside-Down, Arts Council Korea, Insa Art Space, Seoul
Tireless Refrain, Nam June Paik Art Center, Yongin, Korea
- 2012 *Play time*, 284 Seoul culture station, Seoul
Taste of Life, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul
Confession, Ilmin Museum, Seoul
The Pulse, Doosan Gallery, Seoul
- 2011 *Korea tomorrow*, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul
- 2010 *Asian Emerging Artist, Art Gwangju*, Kim, Daejung convention center, Gwangju, Korea
Biennale+1, 8th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, Korea
Asian Emerging Artist, Art Gwangju, Kim, Daejung convention center, Gwangju, Korea
Art & Science, National Science Museum, Gwacheon, Korea
30th Anniversary of the Young Korean Artists, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon
Seogyo Sixty 2010 The Imaginary Archive, Sangsang Madang, Seoul
International CES 2010, Hilton Hotel Convention Center, Las Vegas, USA
- 2009 *Life in hyper Real*, Samsung Delight Gallery, Seoul
Visible Hands, ILMIN Museum of Arts, Seoul
Joong-Ang Fine arts Prize Special invitation, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul
Dissonant visions, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul
- 2008 *Young Korea Artist 2008 <IM AN ARTIST>*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea
Art meet Sea, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea
Art at Home, Doosan Gallery, Seoul
Artist Garden, Clayarch Gimhae Museum, Gimhae, Korea
- 2007 *Stress Fighter*, Alternative Space Pool, Seoul

AWARD & RESIDENCY

- 2019 Gallery PURPLE, Namyangju, Korea
- 2018 Tsung-Yeh Arts and Culture Center, Madou, Taiwan
- 2016 GCC residency, Daebudo, Korea

2016 Cemeti Art House Residence, Jog Jakarta, Indonesia
 2015 Asia Culture Center, Gwangju
 2015 The 26th Kim Se-joong Sculpture Award, Seoul
 2014 The 1st Spectrum Artist Award, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul
 Doosan Gallery New York Residence, New York
 2013 Geumchon Art Factory Residence, Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture, Seoul
 Jim Thompson Farm, Bangkok, Thailand
 Howl Space Residence, Tainan City, Taiwan
 2012 Space Can Residence, Seoul
 2011 SOLOMON Artist Residence & Gallery, Seoul
 2010 The National Art Studio Residence, Chang-Dong , Seoul
 2009 2009~2010 Arko Young Artist Frontier, Arko Art center, Seoul

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

LVMH Foundation, Paris
 LEEUM Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul
 Cheongju Museum of Art, Chungju, Korea
 MMCA(National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art), Gwacheon, Korea
 SeMA(Seoul Museum of Art), Seoul
 National Science Center, Gwacheon, Korea
 Ssamzie Theme Park, Heyri, Korea