

UNG-PIL BYEN

(b. 1970, KOREAN)

UNG-PIL BYEN

Born in 1970, Jangheung, Korea
Lives and works in Ganghwa, Korea



Courtesy of CHOI&CHOI Gallery and the artist

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ung-Pil Byen lives and works in Korea after spending 11 years in Germany. He continues to paint portraits using materials and techniques commonly found in Western painting, whilst maintaining a distinctively Eastern approach of removing and emptying elements of the work. Byen's series of self-portraits, which began in Germany, undoubtedly depicts the artist himself. Against his emotionless face, however, certain identifiers such as hair, eyebrows, and skin colour are erased and distorted, leading to a near abstraction. "The highly subjective differences between beauty and ugliness, open discrimination based on skin color, hasty judgment of the experience of another's gender without experiencing it, and class prejudice based on occupation and social status. How free can I really be from these prejudices and biases," asks the artist himself. Even in his later series of (non-self) portraits, the artist intentionally removes such specific details. By doing so, Byen's work also allows the viewer to project their own narratives onto the canvas, and serves as an opportunity to face their inner thoughts and emotions.

Ung Pil Byen(1970-) received BFA in Western painting from Dongguk University, Korea, and received MFA in Fine Art as Meister student of Guillaume Bijl from Academy of Arts in Muenster, Germany. He has held 10 solo exhibitions including 'SOMEONE'(HORI Artspace, Seoul, 2021), 'SOMEONE'(Arirang Gallery, Busan, 2018), 'Ung Pil Byen Solo Exhibition'(Gallery Joeun, Seoul, 2014), 'Ongnim-ri 23-1'(UNC Gallery, Seoul, 2014), 'SOMEONE'(Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, 2013), 'SOMEONE'(Arirang Gallery, Busan, 2012), 'Self-portrait as a Man 1 & 1/4'(Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, 2009), and participated in over 100 group and special exhibitions. He was awarded Support Award of the Academy of Arts Muenster, Emerging Artist Fellowship for foreign student-DAAD, 2004-Kunstaspekte-Art Award, and ADO Art Award 2005. Byen's work can be found in public and private collections including MMCA Government Art Bank(Seoul), SeMA(Seoul), Jeonnam Museum of Art(Gwangyang), OCI Museum of Art(Seoul), Incheon Foundation for Arts and Culture (Incheon), Museum MARTA Herfod(Herfod), Supreme court of NRW(Germany). Byen's paintings are included in Middle School Art Textbook published by Jihaksa Co. Ltd, and High School Art Textbook published by Chunjae Education, Ltd and Mijinsa Co. Ltd. His work has also been introduced in other publications such as 'Art Meditation'(2021) and 'The Museum of a Feeling'(2018). The artist currently lives and works in his studio located in the Ganghwa province of Korea.

UNG-PIL BYEN



Someone

2024

Oil on canvas

117 x 91 cm

Exhibition View



Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



Someone

2024

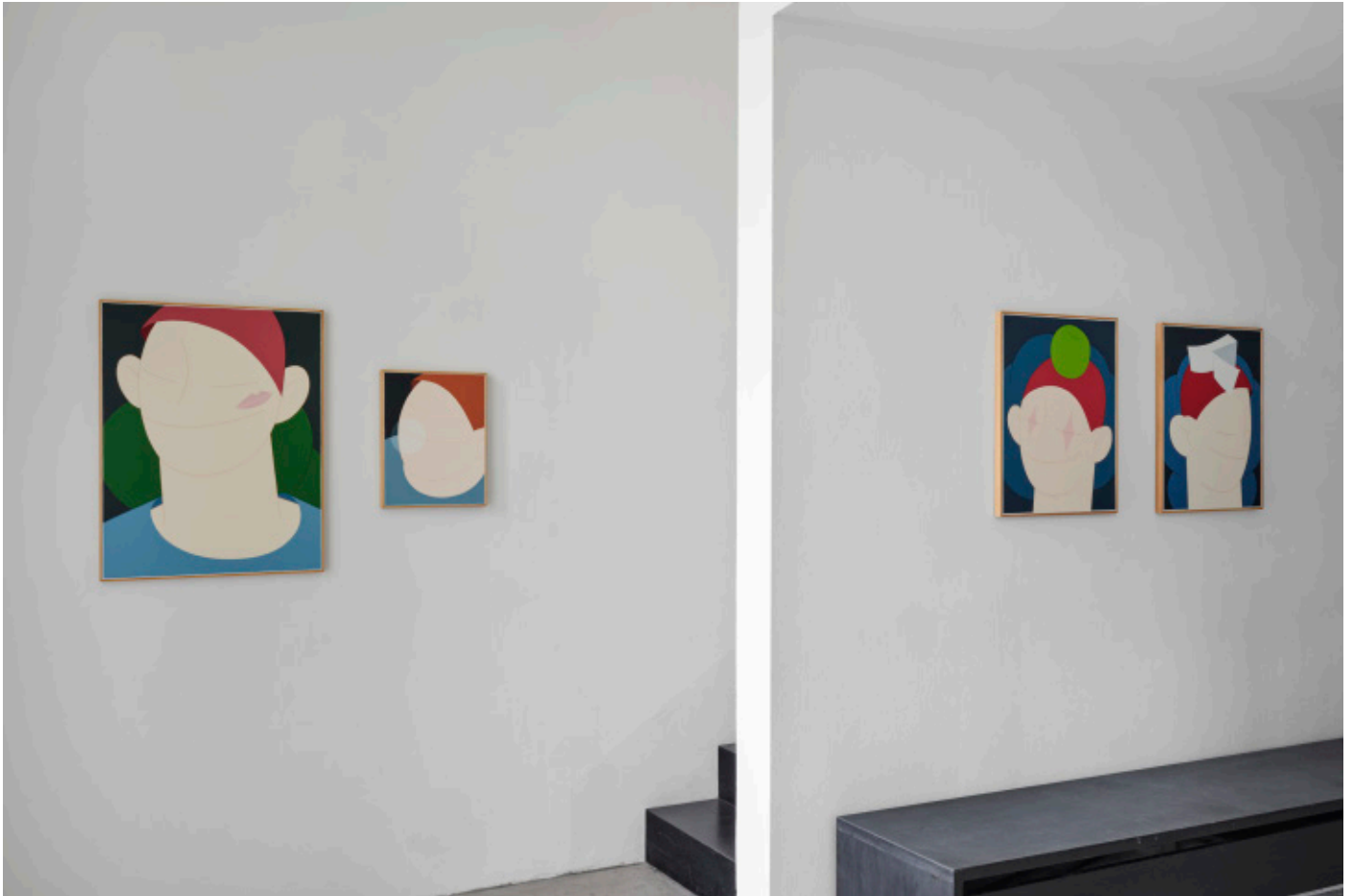
Oil on canvas

77 x 60 cm

Exhibition View



Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



Someone

2024

Oil on canvas

77 x 60 cm

Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



Someone

2024

Oil on canvas

77 x 60 cm

Exhibition View



Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



Someone

2024

Oil on canvas

53 x 41 cm

UNG-PIL BYEN



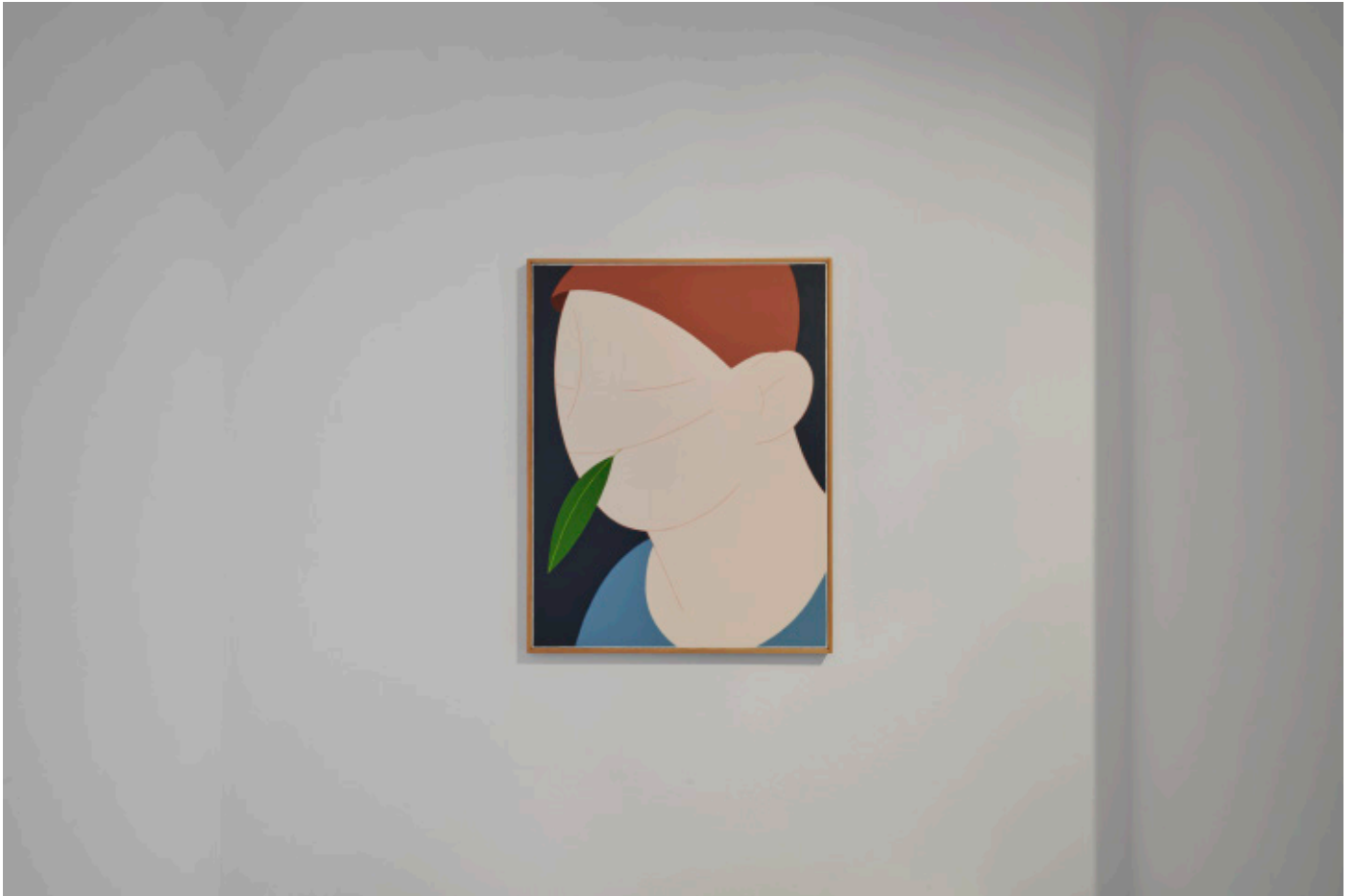
Someone

2024

Oil on canvas

53 x 41 cm

Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



Someone

2024

Oil on canvas

41 x 32 cm

UNG-PIL BYEN



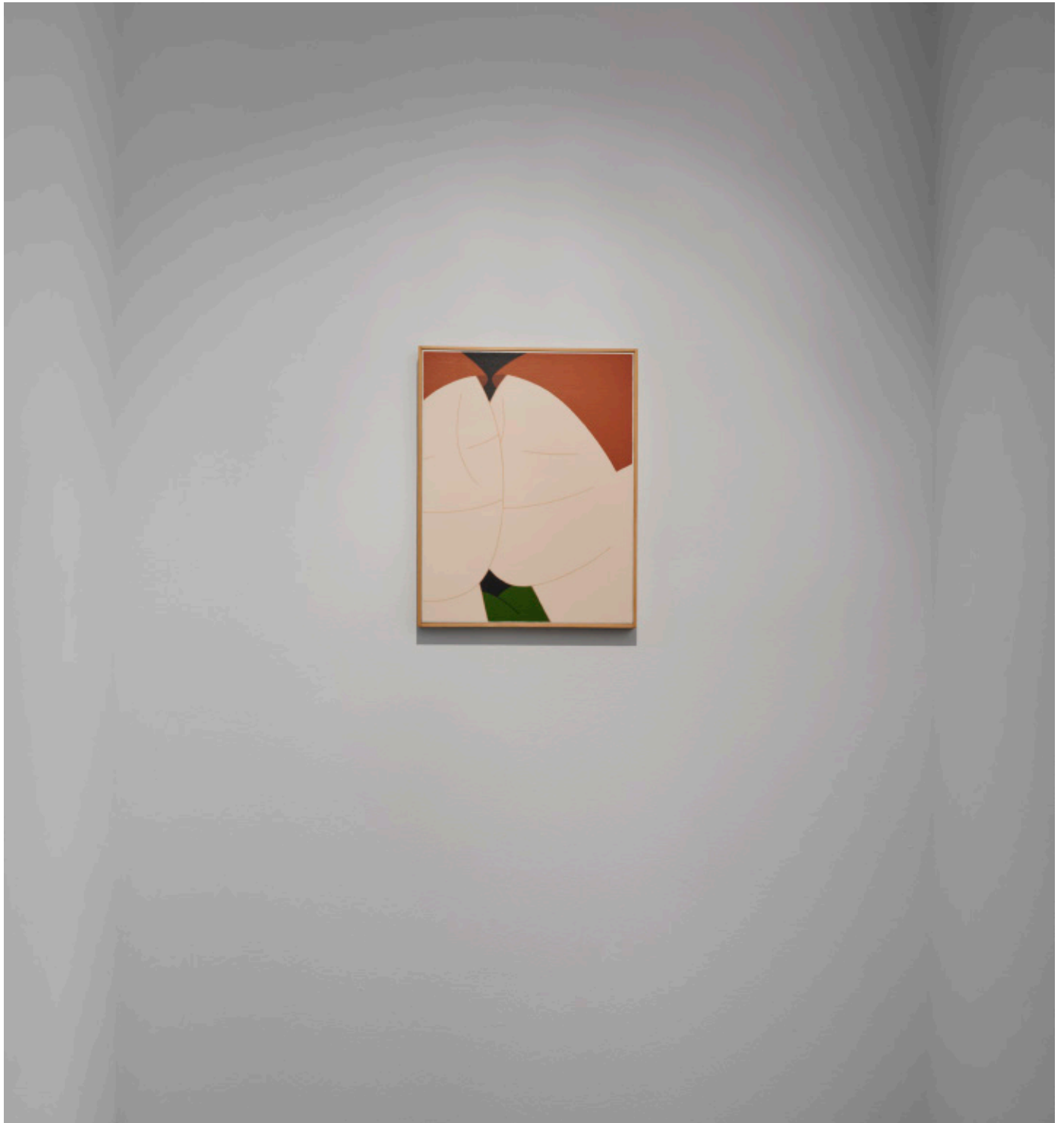
Someone

2024

Oil on canvas

41 x 32 cm

Exhibition View



Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



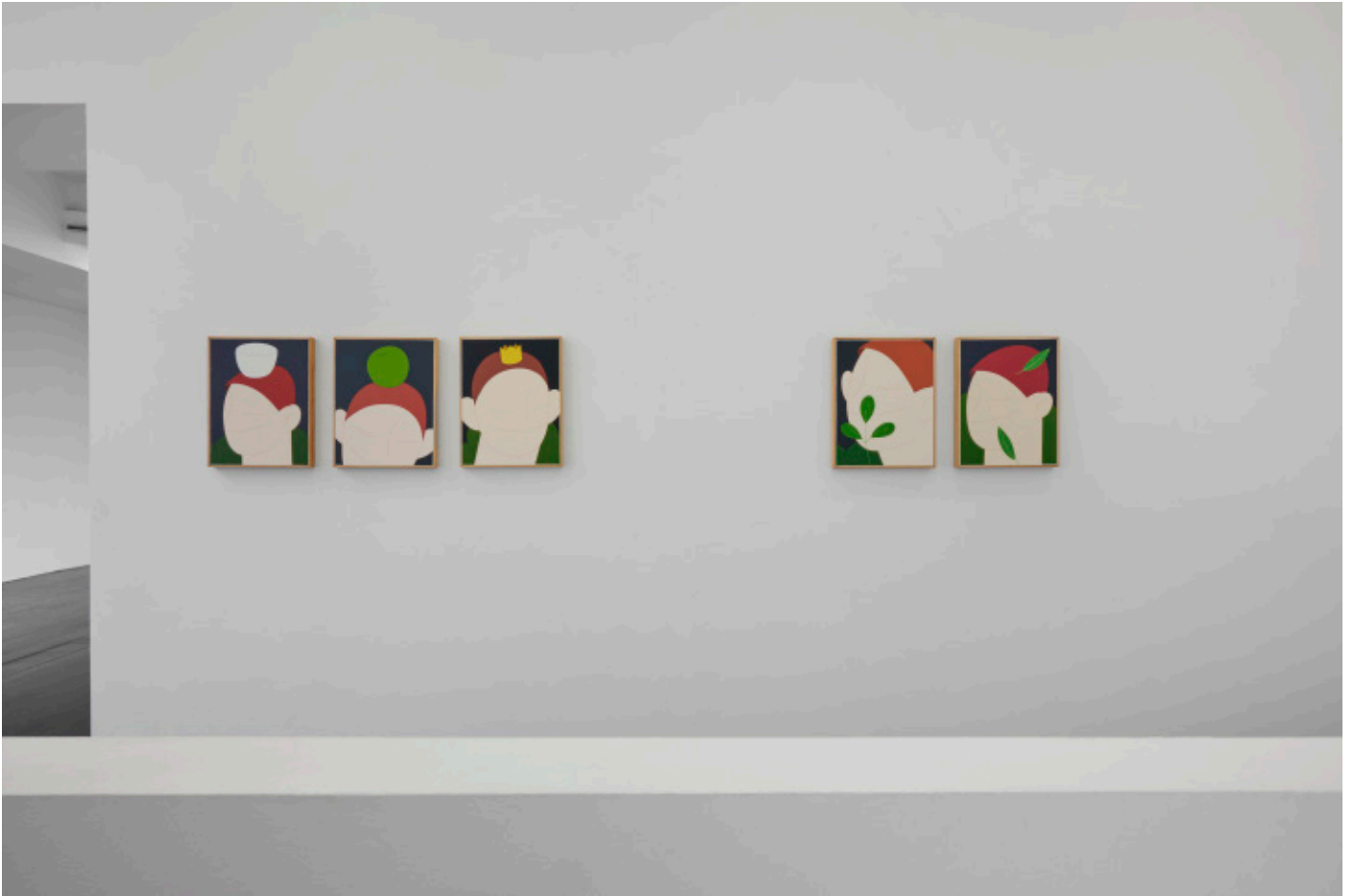
Someone

2024

Oil on canvas

41 x 32 cm

Exhibition View



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EDUCATION

- 1989 – 1996 B.F.A. Dongguk University
1997 – 2005 M.F.A. Academy of Arts, Münster, Germany
2005 – 2006 Master student by Prof. Guillaume Bijl, Münster, Germany
2007 – 2009 Adjunct Professor Fine Art Department at Dongguk University

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Someone, CHOI&CHOI Gallery, Cologne
2021 SOMEONE, HORI artspace, Seoul
2018 SOMEONE, ARIRANG Gallery, Busan
2017 FictionByen Ung-Pil, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
2014 Ongnim-ri 23-1, UNC Gallery, Seoul
2013 Someone, Gallery HYUNDAIwindow, Seoul
2012 SOMEONE, ARIRANG Gallery, Busan
Byen, Ung-Pil, Project Cafe Wumin, Cheongju
2009 Selfportrait as a man 1 & 1/4, Gallery HYUNDAI, Seoul
2007 Byen Ung-pil: Seolleim, doART Gallery, Seoul
2006 Face-Landscape, Gallery Zandari, Seoul
2005 Face to face, Galerie ART-isotope, Dortmund
Self portrait as a men,, Galerie Plas-ma, Muehlheim a.d. Ruhr
2004 Solo Exhibition, Galerie Zap-art, Warendorf
Two Persons, OVG NRW, Münster
Painting of BYEN, UNG-PIL, Kunsthalle Hangelar Sankt Augustin Hangelar
2003 I, you and we, Practice of Dr.Edith, Dr.Wolfgang Mikansky, Dr.Werne Korte. Reken
Two Persons-the shop window, Wewerka-Pavillon Münster

GROUP EXHIBITIONS & ARTFAIRS

- 2024 Happy Hori Day, HORI artspace, Seoul
The Friendliest' Incheon art platform. Incheon
2023 HUMAN, CHOI&CHOI Gallery, Seoul
From Berlin to Seoul: Crossing Horizons, CHOI&CHOI Gallery, HORI Artispac, AIF Lounge, Seoul and
Bermel von Luxburg Gallery, Berlin
My Memory-erase and pile up: Byen,ungpil & Seo yu ra, CL art Gallery, Seoul
2022 FLOWER, CHOI&CHOI Gallery, Seoul
2021 Dream and enjoy Namhae, Space MIZO, Namhae
Thank you 2019, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
Ilpleasures, Chung Art Gallery, Seoul
HA HA HA, SPACE1326, Seoul
2020 Ensemble at Hannam 2nd, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
K-Dementia 2020, COEX D Hall, Seoul
Memory, Record, Jeondeungsa, Ganghwado
Pangyo Art Museum, Hyundai Department Store, Pangyo
Artist research Byen, Ungpil + Yoon, Jongsuk, AIF, Seoul
Bulhock – Mihockhada, Gallery Joeun, Seoul

- Thank you 2020, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
- 2019 The Forest, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
Who am I? – good, Indipress Gallery, Seoul
15C CHULWHA NOW, Arts Center KUH, Daejeon
11pleasures, Chung Art Gallery, Seoul
Thank you 2019, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
- 2018 11pleasures, Chung Art Gallery, Seoul
ART Élysées, Gallery JOEUN, Paris
START art fair, Saatchi Gallery, London
The Wind Blows-The 5th ART Vornado, Insa art senter, Seoul
National Museum of Contemporary Art Art Bank Collection Exhibition, Gangneung Art Center, Gangneung
100 ALBUMS 100 ARTISTS 2, Avenuel Arthall, Seoul
Anseong Arthall Grand Open Show with 17Artists, Anseong Arthall, Anseong
- 2017 This is Diptych, Small-museum, Jeongseon
Revisiting painting arts: Modern Figurative paintings by Korean artists, Cian art museum, Yeong Cheon
I DREAM, delight square Gallery, Seoul
Cafe Society, Seoul Museum, Seoul
100 Albums 100 Artists, AVENUEL ARTHALL, Seoul
- 2016 Thank you 2016, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
Two Man's Story, ART CENTER KUH, Daejeon
Korean Contemporary Art: Predict, Propose, Proses, DDP, Seoul
Selfportrait, Gallery Toast, Seoul
- 2015 2015 <SeMA Artist Guild Art Fair>, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul
Art Busan 2015, Gallery ARIRANG, Busan
2015 OCEANUS K-ART, Oceanus Arthall, Busan
- 2014 Korean Portraiture, Beyond Memories, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju
Family LOVE, Yangpyeong Art Museum, Yangpyeong
Mince drawing, Creative Space_P, Busan
- 2013 shoot for Hope, Hankyoung Gallery, Seoul
Korea Contemporary Art 33, Gangdong Art Center, Seoul
AMMA UMMA, Korean Cultural Centre India, India
Art Load 77' Art Fair 2013, Heyri, Paju
KOREAN ART TODAY, Korean Cultural Centre India, India
Artwing seoul, seoul metropolitan government, Seoul
Human, for a While, Culture Factory Osan, Osan
The Face, Superior Galley, Seoul
- 2012 15th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2012, Bangladesh
Thoughts on Body, Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul
SeMA Youth 2012: 12 Events for 12 Rooms, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul
Face Unlock, Jang Heung Art Park, Jang Heung
Korea Gallery Art Fair, Coex (Gallery Hyundai), Seoul
K ARTSTAR, INSA art senter, Seoul
JUN DAE MI MUN, Artstar, Gallery JUN, Daegu

- Korea Gallery Art Fair, Coex (Gallery Hyundai), Seoul
- 2011 Korea Contemporary Art, Hottest Young Artist, Hyundai Artscenter, Ulsan
 Selective Expression of Figures on our Times, Gallery SOHEON, Daegu
 KIAF, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul
 I AM A PAINTER, UNC Gallery, Seoul
- 2010 INSA ART FESTIVAL, Gallery Urim, Seoul
 theirs are beautiful, Gallery D, Gwangju
 Drawing-The Room of Artists, Topohaus, Seoul
 Korean Contemporary Art DEFRNSE MECHANISM, Gallery TN, Beijing
 Korea Contemporary Artists 110, SEJONG CENTER, Seoul
 IN SPITE OF ART, interalia art company, Seoul
- 2009 Lemon tree, UNC Gallery, Seoul
 FUSION 304 with 11 Artists, Grimson Gallery, Seoul
 Nanji-Residency Project, Nanji Gallery, Seoul
- 2008 The Soul of Korean Contemporary Art, INSA Art-center, Seoul
 9th Cutting Edge, Seoul Auction, Seoul
 Sweet November, Gallery UNC, Seoul
 Da Saeck Da Gam, Gallery Zandari, Seoul
 Mirror Image : About a Self Portrait, Seoul Museum of Art
 Seoul art-fair 2008, Bexco, Busan
 Star wars episode 1, Gallery UNC, Seoul
 the boa constrictor that swallowed an elephant, Gallery LEE C, Seoul
- 2007 The Edge of Sensation, Gallery SIMON, Seoul
 The Best of The Best 20, Insa Art Center, Seoul
 I & Another me. Daegu MBC-Gallery M, Daegu
 VOLTA SHOW03, Basel
 KIAF, doART GALLERY, Seoul
- 2006 HYBRID, Seoul arts Center, Seoul
 Trend-Spotting 2006, Gallery HYUNDAI, Seoul
 P & P, Gallery Zandari, Seoul/ Gallery Space ium, Beijing
- 2005 Between reality and fiction, I:een PICTURA, Dordrecht
 Bauzaun-project, Sparkasse Münster, Münster
 Fiesta!, Gallery Annie Gentils, Antwerpen
 Exhibitionist-stefanie klingemann, Münster
 Kunstbombe 2005, Flottmann-Halle, Herne
 ADO Kunstpreis 2005, auf Gut Altenkamp Aschenberg
 Foto Antwerpen 2005, ""between reality and fiction"" Gallery Lokaal 01, Antwerpen
 Grosse Kunst Ausstellung NRW 2005' Messe 8, Düsseldorf
- 2004 Rein aeusserlich, Gallery Open Art, Borken
 Malerei 04' Kunsthalle Recklinghausen
 Grosse Kunstausstellung' Kunsthalle Villa Kobe, Halle(Saale)
 Kunstbombe 2004' Flottmann-Halle, Herne
 Art-fair Koeln 2004, Palladium Köln, Cologne
 Leere und Vision, Das Quatier Radewig Herford

- Freundschaftspiel' Dolmabahce-Serail Museum, Istanbul
- 2003 Welde art award 2003' Weldebrau Plankstadt, Schwetzingen
Kunstakademie MSx4' Gallery F6-Kuenstlerdorf Schoeppingen
Kunstbombe 2003' the artfair in Revier Flottmann-Hallen Herne
- 2002 Aus bei mit nach von zu seitExhibition of young artist' Künstlerhaus, Dortmund
Inter cult 2002' Benno-Haus Münster
- 2001 Slide-Project' Hawerkamp, Münster
Action "a sky, a earth, a mankind'" Duesseldorf(Shadowplatz)
Korean art group 0082, Kunstverein Ochtrup, Germany
Class-Exhibition (Prof. Paul Isenrath)' Herford-Stadtmuseum
Film-Festival 2002' Münster
Exhibition-Support award of the Academy of Arts' Münster, Haverkamp Münster
- 2000 Gif-Animation' Hawerkamp, Münster, Münster

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

- 2008/09 Nanji Art Studio(Seoul museum of art), Seoul, Korea
- 2006 Emerging Artist Fellowship, Arts Council Korea
- 2005 ADO Art Award 2005, Germany
- 2004 Kunstaspekte-Art Award, Germany
- 2003 Second Award, Kunstbombe 2003, Germany
Emerging Artist Fellowship for foreign student, DAAD, Germany
- 2002 Support Award of the Academy of Arts Muenster, Germany

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea
Jeollanam-do Museum of Art
Seoul Museum of Art
Seoul Museum
OCI Museum of Art
Incheon Foundation for Arts and Culture
Museum MARTA Herfod, Germany
Supreme court of NRW, Germany