

## ***GOLD EXPERIENCE***

*Contemporary Painting with Gold Leaf from Japan and Korea*

Venue: Hyun Gallery (Seoul = <http://www.hyungallery.com/>)

Date: May 20 – June 6, 2009

Opening Reception: May 20 (Thu) from 6pm.

- Artists' Talk

- Workshop scheduled on 5/21 and 5/22 (“How to create a gold leaf painting”)

Support: Nomura Foundation

### **Introduction**

Hyun Gallery (Seoul) and HRD Fine Art (Kyoto) are delighted to announce a group exhibition titled “Gold Experience,” which features six artists from Japan and Korea who have among them one thing in common – that is, the use of gold leaf in their paintings.

In art history both in the West and the East, the use of gold leaf in painting has a long and rich tradition. For example, Christian icons painted with tempera and mosaic murals in Europe; screens and lacquer paintings in East Asia. Though having seen separate development and evolution in terms of religious, metaphorical and aesthetical meaning and function, as well as technical and methodical difference, there have been several crossovers in the course of history, such as Christian evangelists taking their glittering holy icons to Asian countries to impress the populace, and in turn, in 19th century, Japonisme boom in Europe saw a lot of artworks imported from Japan including gold-grounded screens and sliding-door paintings.

Though regarded by many as merely functioning as painting’s background, the use of gold leaf has been assigned with far more important roles both in the West and the East; to awe the viewer with religious sublimity; to exhibit imposing power and wealth of the owner of the painting; or to present infinite depth in the two-dimensional picture space.

In this exhibition “Gold Experience,” we will present the works of artists from Japan and Korea, who not only study and exercise traditional techniques and method of applying gold leaf, but also try to digest its historical values and meanings and to integrate them into their own creation. Through their works, with wide variety in style and subject, we would like to cast refreshing light on the aspect of material and medium in contemporary painting, and to give the audience a good opportunity to question the notion of “new” painting in the 21st century, as well as to ponder over the messages, thoughts and ideals with which gold leaf has long been associated.

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## Artists

### **Ryoko Kimura**

1971 Born in Kyoto

1997 MFA in mural painting, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo

#### Selected Solo Exhibitions

1997 Moris Gallery, Tokyo

2002 Span Art Gallery, Tokyo

2003 "The Women Top Age" Vanilla Gallery, Tokyo

2004 "Stained Glass Roman" Sogo Department Store Gallery, Kobe / four other venues

2005 "Beauty of My Dish" Span Art Gallery, Tokyo

2007–08 "Prince Come True" Gallery ES, Tokyo / The Butchart International Contemporary Art Space, Taipei

2009 "Born to be WILD" Mizuma and One Gallery, Beijing / The Butchart International Contemporary Art Space, Taipei

#### Selected Group Exhibitions

2002 "1st Stained Glass Exhibition" Matsuzakaya Museum, Nagoya

2003 "Art and Generations" Span Art Gallery, Tokyo

2004 "Glass Creators from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts" The University Art Museum, Tokyo

2005 "Seiu Ito and the Genealogy" Vanilla Gallery, Tokyo

2006 "Exhibition of Three Artists" Gallery Kabutoya, Tokyo

2006 "eyes & curiosity" Mizuma Action, Tokyo

2007 "Male Beauty" Gallery Tomo, Tokyo

2009 "2nd Art Auction Show" COEX, Seoul

2010 "The 6th Chinese Character Festival: Making Waves Contemporary Art Exhibition" National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, Taipei

#### Prize / Award

2002 Honorable Mention in the category for professionals, the 1st Stained Glass Exhibition

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**Ryoko Kimura** creates her works using traditional technique for Japanese painting like *Byobu-e* screen painting; but she deals with up-to-date worldly subject matters such as people's raw and curious desire towards celebrity and sexual taboos in the society, peculiarly from a woman's viewpoint with a tone of light-hearted satire.

## **Chion Lee**

- 1978 Born in Seoul  
2002 BFA, Seoul Women's University, Seoul  
2003 Studies at Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing  
2007 MFA, Seoul Women's University, Seoul

Lives and works in Seoul

### Solo Exhibition

- 2006 Barhom Gallery at Seoul Women's University, Seoul

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2002 "New Frontier" Gongpyeong Art Center, Seoul  
"Young Artist Exhibition" Seoul Arts Center, Seoul  
2004 "Handicap" Artlink Gallery  
2005 "Cogito" Gallery OM, Seoul  
"Korean-American Artist Group Exhibition" Chetenham Art Center, Philadelphia  
2006 "Are We Different?" Dongduk Art Space, Seoul  
2007 "Dream of Midday" Shinsegae Department Store Gallery, Seoul  
2008 "Wall and Bridge" Sempio Art Space, Icheon, Korea  
"ASYAAF - When we first met" Old Seoul Station Building, Seoul  
"Cogito" Gallery La Mer, Seoul  
2009 "Cogito" Gallery Gwang, Seoul

### Collection

Seoul Women's University, Seoul

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Having studied oriental painting and the use of gold (and silver) leaf, **Chion Lee** mixes them with Western materials such as canvas and acrylic paint to bring forth abstract but expressive works, freeing herself from rigid tradition.

## Hyunjoo Park

- 1968 Born in Seoul  
1991 BFA in painting, Seoul National University, Seoul  
1993 MFA in studio painting, New York University, New York  
2002 PhD in Art, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo

Lives and works in Seoul

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1993 80 Washington Square Gallery, New York  
1994 Gallery Icon, Seoul  
1998 Gallery Kobayashi, Tokyo (also in 2001)  
1999 Keumsan Gallery, Seoul  
2002 DNA-Die Neue Aktionsgalerie, Berlin  
Gallery Kaze, Osaka (also in 2004)  
2003 Gallery In, Seoul  
2005 Crecloart Gallery, Philadelphia  
2006 SADI Window Gallery, Seoul  
2008 Sun Contemporary, Seoul  
2009 "Diagram of Light" VIT Gallery, Seoul

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2003 "Dancing Color" Gallery Sang, Seoul  
"SQUARE" Keumsan Gallery, Seoul  
"Exploration of Light and Color" Seoul Arts Center, Seoul  
"Sense and Sensitivity" Busan Metropolitan Museum, Busan  
2004 "Joy of Contemplation" Sun Gallery, Seoul  
"Over the Rainbow" Space C, Seoul  
2005 "Beyond Artifice" Chiwoo Metal Museum, Seoul  
"Art Camp in India" Mumbai  
2006 "Korean Contemporary Artists 5" Galley Kong, Seoul  
2007 "Infuse" Gallery Velvet, Seoul  
2008 "Up to the Minute" Korea Art Center, Busan  
2009 "Cultural Diversity in Korean Contemporary Art" Sophia Art Gallery, Seoul  
"Sensitivity and Abstraction" Cyart Gallery, Seoul

### Collection

Tokyo University of the Arts,  
Daerim Museum, Seoul

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**Hyunjoo Park's** interest and study in gold-ground tempera paintings have led to creation of a body of her own work – paintings and sculptural paintings. Park's works are marked with repetition of geometrical forms and rich colors, which mirror the artist's devotion to light and its spirituality, seized within the glittering and reflective golden surface.

## **Noriyori Shirakawa**

- 1969 Born in Tokyo  
1993 BFA in oil painting, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo  
1995 MFA, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo  
Lives and works in Aichi

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1996 Ginza Surugadai Gallery, Tokyo  
1997 Ginza Seigetsudo Gallery, Tokyo (also in 1998)  
2004 Garando Gallery, Nagoya  
2006 Ginza Goraku Gallery, Tokyo

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 1995 Ginza Seigetsudo Gallery, Tokyo  
1997 Shinjuku Zenrosai Hall Gallery Space Zero, Tokyo  
2001 "ART FORM OF JAPAN" The Suan Dusit Art Gallery, Bangkok  
2002 Hasegawa Kukansozo Company, Tokyo  
"New Traditonal Art" Silpakorn University Art Center, Bangkok  
Garando Gallery, Nagoya  
2003 "Aoi-no-kai" Ginza Surugadai Gallery, Tokyo (also in 2004, 05, 06, 07, 08 and 09)  
"FIELD OF NOW" Ginza Yokyo Art Hall, Tokyo  
2005 "TEN by Ten 10×10 / Small Universe" Gallery Alpha, Nagoya  
2006 "CONNECT [Impression on Paper]" Silpakorn University Art Center, Bangkok  
2009 "Octave" Garando Gallery, Nagoya

### Collection

Embassy of Peru in Japan, Tokyo

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**Noriyori Shirakawa** is a researcher on painting materials such as gold-ground tempera, while he also creates his own paintings, symbolically associating 'light' and 'memory' with his breathtakingly exquisite skills based on his studies and knowledge of painting material, sometimes with images taken from ancient stories and myths.

## **Jungduk Song**

- 1961 Born in Daegu
- 1985 MFA in Western painting, Hongik University
- 2003 Guest researcher in oil painting department, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo
- 2009 Guest researcher in oil painting preservation and restoration department, Tokyo University of the Arts

Lives and works in Daegu

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2004 Aoki Gallery, Tokyo
- 2006 "MANIF 12!" Seoul Arts Center, Seoul  
"ORIGIN" Seoul Arts Center, Seoul
- 2007 Kinrin Gallery, Tokyo (also in 2009)

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2002 "ABSENCE" Gallery Korea, New York
- 2004 "Inside of the Surface" The University Art Museum, Tokyo / Daegu Citizen's Hall, Daegu (also in 2005, 06 and 07)  
"Gwanghwamoon International Art Festival" Sejong Center, Seoul (also in 2005, 06, 07 and 09)
- 2005 "Art and Mathematics" Sabina Museum, Seoul
- 2007 "How to See a Painting" Sanina Museum, Seoul
- 2007 "Gan" Aoki Gallery, Tokyo

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**Jungduk Song** is a specialist in gold-ground tempera painting. His paintings, however, are clearly no repeat nor trace of old-age artworks; Song's works are unique with its contemporary allegory and symbolism, not unlike 20th century surrealist paintings, coalescing with the technique and materials which date back to the Middle Age Europe.

## **Masako Yasuki**

- 1970 Born in Osaka  
1994 MFA in Art, Kyoto Seika University, Kyoto  
2001 Artist-in-Residence at Edinburgh College of Art through the Artist Exchange "ART-EX" by Osaka Prefectural Government  
2004 Guest Artist at Amherst College, Massachusetts  
Lives and works in Kyoto

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1993 galerie 16, Kyoto (also in 1995, 97, 98, 99, 2005, 09)  
2000 "real/time" Galerie Ando, Tokyo  
2001 "the presence between things" Gallery Te, Tokyo (also in 2005 and 06)  
Sculpture Court Gallery at Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK  
2002 "Edinburgh Project" Osaka Contemporary Art Center  
2003 Base Gallery, Tokyo  
2006 Cubic Gallery, Osaka

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 1991 "Kyoto Independent Exhibition" Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto  
"tabla rasa" Kyoto Shijo Gallery, Kyoto  
199 "International Liaison Exhibition" International Community Center, Kyoto  
1995 "field book - drawings" Gallery Jiyu-kuukan, Osaka  
1996 "Painting - being makes ripples" galerie 16, Kyoto  
1997 "The Future of Painting '97" Osaka Contemporary Art Center, Osaka  
1998 "'98 Selected Exhibition" Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto  
"The Future of Paintings '98" Osaka Contemporary Art Center, Osaka  
"Trembling State" Osaka Contemporary Art Center, Osaka / Roxyside Museum, Hiroshima /  
Kobe Art Village Center, Kobe  
1999 "The Vision of Contemporary Art Japan" The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo  
2000 "2000 Selected Exhibition" Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto  
"INCUBATION 00" Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto  
2001 "Selected Exhibition", The Museum of Kyoto, Kyoto  
2002 "The Vision of Contemporary Art Japan" The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo  
2004 "FLAT-PLAT - Far West near East" Kanagawa Kenmin Hall Gallery, Yokohama / CASO  
Contemporary Art Space Osaka, Osaka  
2005 "City-net Asia 2005" Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul  
2008 "from sublime to uncanny" CASO Contemporary Art Space Osaka, Osaka  
"Out of Sight, Still in Mind" Gallery Hangil, Paju

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**Masako Yasuki's** paintings are based on existing landscape. She meticulously puts together various materials and mediums from the East and the West, including, most recently, gold leaf. Her long and painstaking work results in a thick painting surface, exhibiting the artist's interest or obsession in accumulation of time and abstraction of memories.

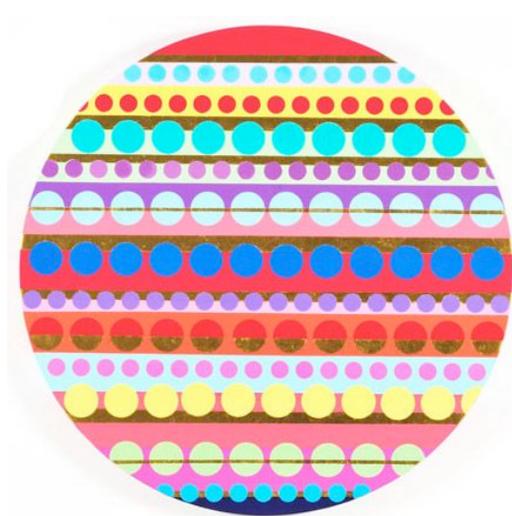
Artworks (some works shown here will not be exhibited)



Jungduk Song "Space for Reminiscence"  
tempera, gold leaf on panel  
16.2×20.7cm



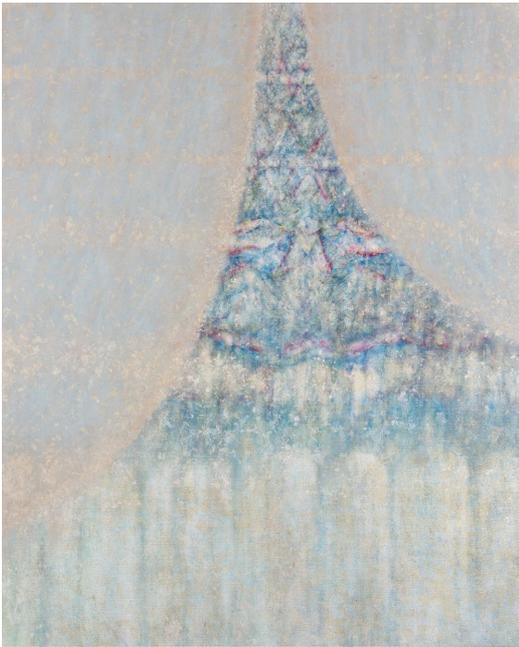
Jungduk Song "Space for Reminiscence"  
tempera, gold leaf on panel  
19×22.5cm



Hyunjoo Park "MA-UM"  
gesso, acrylic, gold leaf on panel  
60×60cm 2009



Hyunjoo Park "MA-UM"  
gesso, acrylic, gold leaf on panel  
60×60cm 2009



Noriyori Shirakawa "V - C - Light - 2010"  
chalk, silver leaf, tempera, oil on canvas  
100×80.3cm 2010



Masako Yasuki "exposed scape - a childhood tree"  
glue, pigment, Paris white, gold leaf on wooden panel, hemp cloth  
and Bolognese chalk  
68×90cm 2010



Masako Yasuki "exposed scape - a collective memory"  
glue, pigment, Paris white, gold leaf on wooden panel, hemp cloth and Bolognese chalk  
100×140cm 2010



Ryoko Kimura "Dessert / A man's body dish for L'opera gâteau au chocolat"  
 Japanese pigment, gold leaf on paper (standing screen)  
 120×97cm 2005



Chion Lee "Whenever it may be, we shall meet again"  
 acrylic, pearl pigment, binder, silver leaf on canvas  
 130.3×97cm 2007



Chion Lee "Whenever it may be, we shall meet again"  
 acrylic, enamel pigment, gold leaf on canvas  
 19×24cm 2003