



'Through the Looking Glass: Korean Contemporary Art'
Curated by Jiyoung Lee

23 November 2006 – 4 March 2007
(closed 23 December 2006 – 2 January 2007)



No Lotus at Asia House by Jeong-Hwa Choi, 2006
© Artist

Asia House

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Artists: Kyuchul Ahn, Duck-Hyun Cho, Jeong-Hwa Choi, Yeondoo Jung, Beom Kim, Jiwon Kim, Sora Kim, Youngjin Kim, Yong-Baek Lee and Meekyoung Shin

Asia House is delighted to present the first major UK exhibition of Korean contemporary art in the year of *Think Korea 2006*, celebrating the diplomatic relationship between the UK and Korea. **Through the Looking Glass** derives its title from the second adventure of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland'. In just the same way that looking at one's reflection in a mirror can be exhilarating, enlightening and is always back-to-front, **Through the Looking Glass** challenges our preconceived image of Korea through an eclectic mix of ten internationally claimed Korean artists.

Korea a fast moving country which on a surface looks very similar to any country in the West, but where every object, every visual symbols are imbued with extra meaning and context. The exhibition looks at various happenings when two cultures meet and clash by facing the 'looking glass'.

Ten Korean contemporary artists are invited to participate in this exhibition and their works challenge the traditional Western value implicit within the interior space of venue and transform it with their fresh view points. Some of the works are weaved through the Asia House building which is a traditional Georgian building. As Alice enters a new world via the looking glass in Lewis Carroll's novel, the exhibited works at Asia House will invite us to enter the pre-existing place in different meanings and contexts. For example, Chinese imperial porcelain vases are not from Ming or Qing dynasty but their forms and decorative motives are freshly sculpted from soap blocks in the 21st century. A library is considered as a 'sound poem', and people from old photographs re-encounter in the paintings.

With the generous support from LG Electronics, **Through the Looking Glass** includes five new works by **Duck-Hyun Cho (painting)**, **Jeong-Hwa Choi (installation)**, **Sora Kim (installation)**, **Yong-Baek Lee (new media)** and **Meekyoung Shin (sculpture)**. These new commissions who the full diversity

and innovation of Korean contemporary art, which has in recent years established a high profile in the international art scene.

The exhibition will be accompanied by panel discussion at 11am-1pm, on 25 November 2006 with the panelists including **Beth McKillop**, **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, **Alessio Antonioli** and **Jiyoon Lee** and other lecture programmes.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Asia House established in 1996 is one of the premier pan Asian organizations in Britain, promoting a greater understanding of the rich and varied Asian cultures and economies. The new premise in Cavendish was opened by Mr Lee Kwan Yew a former Prime Minister of Singapore earlier this year. Asia House hosts approximately 125 events annually covering Asian business, politics and the visual and performing arts. The Asia House gallery brings together both emerging and established Asian artists and curators in a programme of four major exhibitions every year.

Jiyoon Lee is an independent curator, critic and lecturer based in London. Her focus is on the diverse cultural engagement between Asia and Europe. Projects include 'London Underground' at Sungkok Art Museum (Seoul 2001) and the Taipei Fine Art Museum (2002); 'east of eden' at Victoria Miro Project Space (London 2003); 'Seoul: Until Now!' at Charlottenborg Exhibition Hall (Copenhagen 2005). Recent exhibitions included a site-specific new media project, 'Exposed' (London, 2006) and 'Tale of Two Cities', co-curated for the Busan Biennale (Busan, 2006).

LG Electronics is one of the world's leading global digital companies with a strong reputation for producing innovative and reliable projects of the highest standards for their international customers. As part of their ongoing enthusiasm and support for the visual arts, LG Electronics have been actively involved with international contemporary art and design. LG Electronics is proud to support '*Through the Looking Glass*', introducing innovative and thought-provoking Korean contemporary art to an international audience.

Due to private functions, some of the exhibition rooms may not be open to the visitors. Please contact Asia House prior to a visit.

Admissions £ 2 / free to Asia House members and under 18's

For information and images

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