

# VILLEPIN

**Myonghi Kang**

**May 17 – October 2021**

**G-2/F, 53-55 Hollywood Road**

**Central, Hong Kong**



Myonghi Kang in her atelier in Jeju, Korea, 2021 (Courtesy of VILLEPIN)

VILLEPIN is pleased to announce an exhibition featuring work by the Korean artist Myonghi Kang.

Myonghi Kang's idyllic canvases offer an intimate view into the elusive heart of her artistic pursuit: a faith in painting and drawing as a medium capable of profoundly reinforcing our relationship with the natural world. Moving with ease between abstraction and figuration, the artist reflects on questions of perception, embodiment and understanding, while offering viewers a new experience of time, space, and color. Through cosmic landscapes, her command of colors, marks and shapes convey a sense of exuberance, peace and joy.

For over five decades, the artist has continuously sought new ways to represent nature on paper and canvas in a practice that involves painting, poetry as well as philosophy. The works on view in the exhibition vary dramatically in scale yet they share an immediacy that results from the artist's familiar and fluent engagement with oils and pastels. The gallery will be transformed into a meditative sanctuary to complement the artist's work, providing a hideaway from the hustle and bustle of city life, and allowing visitors to become immersed in her visual language.

After arriving in Paris from South Korea in 1972, a stay in the city's Quai de la Loire surrounded by tranquil canals inspired a shift in focus from political themes to an in-depth appreciation of nature. She belonged to a close community of artists, writers, and philosophers, developing friendships with Zao Wou-Ki, Dominique de Villepin, Alain Jouffroy and Piotr Kowalski. Their friendships sparked collaborations on poetry and further exhibitions in France, China, and South Korea. Drawing from her extensive travels from Sicily to Mongolia and down to Patagonia, Myonghi Kang evokes a timeless sense of illumination from

when man and nature used to be one. The artist is now based in Jeju, South Korea where her studio is surrounded by lush natural landscapes that continue to inspire her work.

“For over nearly five decades, Myonghi Kang has continuously sought new ways to capture our world which is in constant transformation and often threatened by extinction. Her art represents a sanctuary in which a lively dialogue is still possible between us and nature. That is why we wanted to share the ultimate experience of her creations with the people of Hong Kong, immersing ourselves in her inner world and discovering her works through her own eyes,” comments Arthur de Villepin, co-founder of VILLEPIN.

“Myonghi is a true medicine-woman. Through her infinite display of colors, her paintings contain an embodied spirit that can cure the soul. Art is created through the magic of her brushes, offering a way to preserve the world as well as an oracular challenge,” said Dominique de Villepin, co-founder of VILLEPIN.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### *About Myonghi Kang*

**Myonghi Kang's** (b. 1947, Daegu, South Korea) vibrant cosmic paintings project a pure sensibility without boundaries. Through her canvases, the artist expresses a view of the natural world that vacillates between emptiness and fullness in myriad manifestations of colours, marks, and shapes.

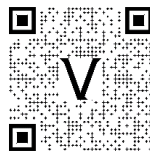
For much of her life, Myonghi has divided her time between South Korea and France. She studied Fine Arts at the College of Fine Arts, Seoul National University. Myonghi immigrated to France in 1972. After a few years in the French capital, she started painting the urban street scenes of Paris and the surrounding nature when she moved to Quai de la Loire in the 1980s.

After Myonghi started exhibiting her ethereal paintings, she befriended renowned artists, poets, and writers, including Zao Wou-Ki, Piotr Kowalski, Gilles Aillaud, Alain Jouffroy and Dominique de Villepin. Her works gained widespread recognition in the late 1980s following several international solo exhibitions and poetry recitals, including shows at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris (1986), the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul (1989) and Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City in China (2011).

In 1981, she and her husband Setaik were the founders of the Musée de Séoul in Seoul, the first Museum of Art in South Korea. The artist also participated in the exhibition and symposium *Devant, le futur*, as part of the World Expo held in Daejeon, South Korea in 1993.

### *About VILLEPIN*

Shaped by Dominique and Arthur de Villepin's passion for art, VILLEPIN is a gallery created by collectors for collectors. Inspired by the founders' own collections and profound knowledge of the Asian art market, VILLEPIN offers a new gallery concept based on the art of collecting. Through their experience building close friendships with artists, the father-son duo wish to share their expertise with fellow collectors by curating artworks that they themselves would love to collect, ultimately nurturing a unique model of collecting based on long-term relationships with artists and their estates or foundations. With their knowledge of the region's art scene and strong commitment to the city, the new gallery program will exhibit work by some of the world's most important artists, focusing on those whose work carries universal messages to demonstrate the power of art to build bridges and change lives. VILLEPIN prioritizes its personal relationships with artists and aspires to tell their personal stories through staging important exhibitions of their work, producing detailed publications and generating dialogue about collecting art with passion.



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*For press enquiries please contact:* Victoria Kung, Sutton, [victoriak@suttoncomms.com](mailto:victoriak@suttoncomms.com)