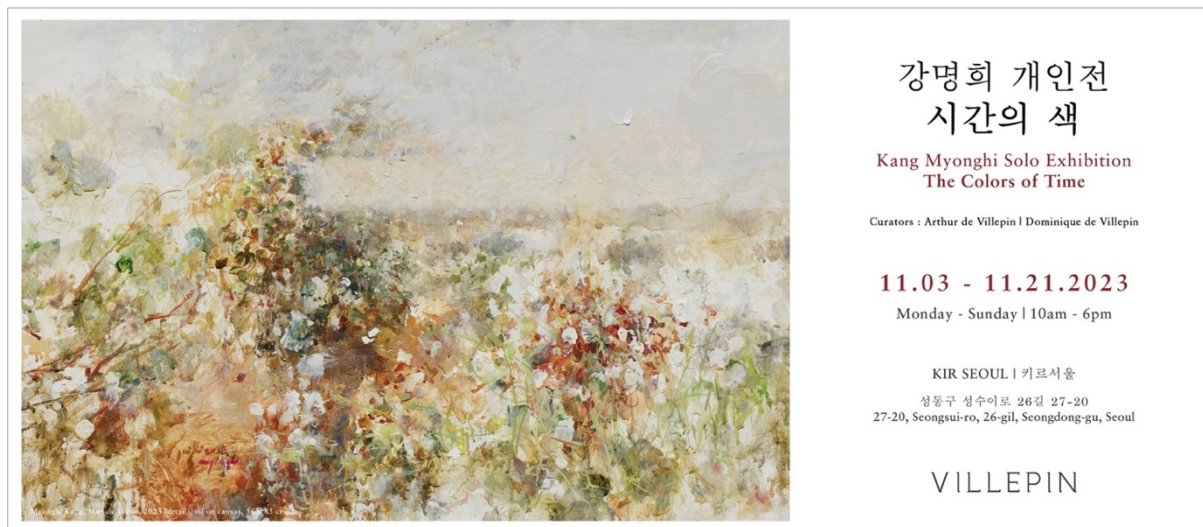


VILLEPIN

KANG MYONGHI: The Colors of Time

November 3rd – 21st, 2023

KIR Seoul
27-20 Seongsui-ro 26-gil
Seongdong-gu, Seoul
Monday – Sunday | 10AM to 6PM



Villepin is pleased to announce a major solo exhibition of Korean born artist, *Kang Myonghi: The Colors of Time* opening in Seoul on November 3rd, 2023. This will be Villepin's inaugural exhibition in the capital of South Korea and one that aims to celebrate a pivotal chapter of Kang Myonghi's artistic journey.

The father-son founders of Villepin, Dominique and Arthur de Villepin whose friendship with the artist goes back three decades are privileged to witness her return to Seoul—an event laden with profound significance. Having spent many years traveling around the world, this exhibition marks a reconnection of the artist with her Korean and Asian heritage, thus rekindling her intrinsic ties to the land of her birth. As Myonghi revisits her heritage, her art takes on a new resonance. It's a resurgence, a celebration of her identity as a Korean artist, and a testament to the enduring influence of her homeland.

Kang Myonghi was the first Korean female artist to exhibit in top art museums and international institutions. She had a solo exhibition at Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris in 1986 and has also shown at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul (1989), Beijing National Art Museum (2005), Ningbo Museum of Art (2007), Shanghai Museum of Art (2007), and Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City in China (2011). In 1981, she and her husband Setaik Yim 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. More recently, she had a solo exhibition in Qingdao for the grand opening of the TAG museum in 2023, in tandem with Antony Gormley's exhibition.

Myonghi is a rare painter, committed to exploring limits, in a time of unprecedented change. She has ventured to the parts of the world, from the Gobi Desert to the glaciers of Patagonia, in search of a primordial time, of the origins of our times. Myonghi's latest compositions bear witness to the vibrant tapestry of her cultural heritage, resonating with the vivid colors and intricate brushwork that evoke the landscapes, traditions, and spirituality indigenous to Korea and Asia. Myonghi's artistic evolution has remained an exploration of nature's enigmatic depths, skillfully navigating the delicate intersection of the spiritual and the corporeal, akin to the eternal interplay between heaven and earth. She restores nature's mystery, records its momentum as she transcribes in each of her works. Her oeuvre, spanning from early works to her most recent abstractions, remains steeped in poetic introspection and philosophical inquiry, unveiling a portal into the mystical dimensions inherent to humanity.

"It brings us great pleasure to present *Kang Myonghi: The Colors of Time* in Seoul, the artist's birth country. It is also a wonderful occasion for Villepin to extend its presence into the dynamic city of Seoul, which we are continuously inspired by with its rich and deep cultural landscape. As a gallery based in Hong Kong with strong ties to Europe, our unique program includes exhibitions and special projects globally. This exhibition marks the gallery's inaugural chapter of our upcoming permanent program in Korea.

For the artist, it is a personal exhibition to evoke and reminisce her decades long artistic journey living and working in two distinct cultural worlds and we are excited to be able to share Kang Myonghi's cherished story with the art community and the public in Seoul." - Arthur de Villepin



Kang Myonghi, *Interior*, 2023, oil on canvas, 182 x 227 cm

About Kang Myonghi

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. Myonghi's paintings radiate joy and powerfully transform their surrounding space. The artist is also a prolific poet; these two mediums allow the artist to capture the world around her, re-constructing its cartography through metaphysical forms of representation.

From the Gobi Desert to the glaciers of Patagonia, Myonghi has travelled around the world seeking aesthetic inspiration. Travel is a special way for Myonghi to rediscover the essence of painting. Often travelling alone with only a few brushes and some canvas, she returns from her journeys to create large-scale paintings capturing their mesmerising landscapes and memories. She has also travelled extensively around Europe, observing global cultures that continue to inform her work and imbue them with a multinational perspective.

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 and first settled in near Aix-en Provence, in a small village named Gardanne. There, she learned the French language but also actively practiced and studied fine art. During her early years in France, Myonghi paintings depicted her memories from Korea and reflected the political climate she lived in before leaving the country: "My body was in France, but my mind and soul were still in Korea."

She currently lives and works in Jeju, South Korea.

About Villepin (www.villepinartcom | Instagram: villepin_art)

Shaped by Dominique and Arthur de Villepin's passion for art, Villepin is a new gallery model created by collectors for collectors. Founded in 2019 in Hong Kong, Villepin is specialized in selected important artists, estates and foundations, advocating their work through carefully curated exhibitions while bridging them with the leading collectors and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. Beyond its gallery walls, Villepin also acts as curator for exhibitions in museums and institutions.

Each exhibition at Villepin is based on in-depth scholarship and offers a unique experience to immerse visitors in the life and art of each artist. Previous exhibitions have also produced special bilingual publications that include original essays and curatorial research. Artists presented by Villepin include Zao Wou-Ki, Myonghi Kang, Anselm Kiefer, Francis Bacon, George Condo, Pierre Soulages, Georges Mathieu and Hans Hartung among others.

As curator and advisor to a close community of collectors, Villepin is focused on education and promoting scholarship of its artists through intimate salons and collaborations with leading institutions, foundations, universities, and museums. Through their extensive experience in building close friendships with artists, the father-son partnership aims to share their expertise, encourage dialogue, and support collectors in building long-lasting relationships with artists, who are at the heart of Villepin's initiatives.

For press inquiries, please contact:

Mag PR – Aimee Lee (Korean media) | July PR – Irene Lam (English media)