

ROBILANT + VOENA

Minjung Kim *Mountains*
December 21, 2018 – January 19, 2019

Robilant+Voena
Via Serlas 35
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www.robilantvoena.com

Robilant+Voena is pleased to present a body of works by Korean artist Minjung Kim. Renowned for their presentations of Italian art, the gallery is starting their St. Moritz winter season with an exhibition that invites visitors into an entirely different world. Alongside China, Korea has brought forth one of the most important schools of art in the east. Minjung Kim, whose artistic education took place both in Korea and Italy, draws upon this rich heritage and creates work using traditional techniques and material such as Hanji paper and ink, combined with a meditative, repetitive approach to art making. Hanji paper, Kim says, is in itself a work of art - a product of craftsmanship and knowledge. Thus her painterly approach is considered and delicate, not wanting to violate something that is already perfect.

The exhibition aligns with Robilant+Voena's ambition to draw attention to accomplished female artists, including those within the Old Masters and Modern Art, that in some cases only now are receiving the critical acclaim and attention they merit. A line may be traced from Artemisia Gentileschi, one of the most important artists of the Baroque era, to the female masters of today, who create superb works in what still is - at least from a market perspective - a male-dominated field.

Jean-Christophe Ammann on Minjung Kim's *Mountain* series:

"While Dan Flavin made a break in (his) art with colored neon tubes, and James Turrell transforms light into a dense and meditative substance, Minjung Kim paints an almost endless series of mountain landscapes bathed in light, using fluid, undulating movements, and does so inspired by the Japanese tradition of India ink painting of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Her monochromes made on rice paper are characterized by innumerable shades grading into the depths of space. The black in the foreground dissolves into an ash gray that gradually lightens until it fades. Whether black ink is used or red, they always convey a sense of a glowing distance. The extraordinary aspect of these paintings is that each of them reveals its own perspective and the mountain scenery is always diverse, shaped by the emotional charge of the painterly gesture."

(*The Light, The Shade, The Depth*, 2015, Luxembourg & Dayan, Palazzo Caboto, Venezia, Italy, curated by Jean-Christophe Ammann)

A work from the Mountain series will be part of a British Museum exhibition called "Drawing Now" (Sept 2019 - Jan 2020). This exhibition is curated and organized by the British Museum's Prints and Drawings department and showcases contemporary works from the museum's collection. Other works in the exhibition are by Gerhard Richter, Philip Guston, Tracey Emin, and Louise Bourgeois.

Minjung Kim was born in Gwanju, Korea, in 1962. From the age of six, it was her family's wish that she study painting under various teachers, including the famous water-colourist Yeongyun Kang. She went on to study calligraphy and painting, graduating with a Master's degree in the four essential components of ink painting from Hong Ik University in Seoul in 1985. In 1991 Minjung Kim left the country to continue her studies at Milan's Brera Academy. She currently lives and works in southern France and NY, USA.

Minjung Kim has exhibited in museums such as Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio, Torino; Museo Comunale, Ascona; Museum Sbygningen, Copenhagen; Henry Moore Institut, Leeds; Guanshan Yue art Museum, Shenzhen; Macro - Museo Arte Contemporanea Roma; OCI Museum of Art, Seoul; Musee des Arts Asiatiques, Conseil Départemental 06, Nice; Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju. Her work has been shown at the Venice Biennale, Venice; Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju; Changwon Sculpture Biennale, Changwon, and is represented in several public and private collections.

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