Chun Kwang Young: Times Reimagined

Collateral Event of the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

Promoted by: Boghossian Foundation
Supported by: Museum Ground, Interart Channel
Exhibition Duration: 23rd April – 27th November, 2022
Press Preview: 20th – 22nd April, 10am – 6pm
Academic Forum: 21st April, 2pm
Opening Ceremony: 21st April, 7pm
Venue: Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Dorsoduro 874, Venice
Website: www.timesreimagined.com
Instagram: @timesreimagined

Curator: Yongwoo Lee
Curatorial Adviser: Manuela Lucà-Dazio
Associate Curator: Liyin Wang
Exhibition Designers: Manuela Lucà-Dazio, Sebastiano Giannesini

Times Reimagined is an aesthetic laboratory of artist Chun Kwang Young who has been working for 30 years under the theme of the interconnectedness between living beings and the socio-ecological values of their relationships. In ecology, interconnectedness is an absolute factor for the reproduction and survival of all living things, as well as an essential for ensuring biodiversity and enhancing sustainability in any adverse conditions such as climate change.

This project will include 40 large-scale mulberry-paper reliefs, sculptures and installations created by artist Chun and a site-specific architectural structure Hanji House designed by architect and urban planner Stefano Boeri.

As the prime medium of Chun’s creation, Hanji (Korean mulberry paper), is a champion of ecological reproduction and circulation, which endures time and re-defines the notion of life cycle through its over thousand years durability. It was shaped by Chun into metamorphotic creatures reminiscent of living beings or spectacular scenes with historical and cultural symbolism. In particular, the paper used in Chun’s art is not mass-produced, but a solid handmade product originated from the mulberry tree, embodying a cultural property fermented for several hundreds of years. This rare treasure in a digital society foregrounds the value of paper, and the information, knowledge, wisdom as well as the memory it denotes.
In dialogue with Chun Kwang Young’s works, the Italian architect Stefano Boeri has designed the Hanji House as a site-specific commissioned architecture of this project. This foldable architectural structure was built with timber and textile membrane on soil as a practical model of ‘paper-tree architecture’, which can be viewed as a ‘light box’ from a distance. The outdoor self-standing object’s design is inspired by playful and yet meditative practice of folding the paper - in an infinite number of ways. The shape recalls ancient East Asian practices of paper-folding and tangram, besides the traditional Korean and Japanese houses, based on simple geometric modularity. It is made by a simple combination of volumes: four pyramids on the top of a parallelepiped leave a planar surface shaped as a regular rhombus in the middle.

To further the discussion centering around Chun Kwang Young: Times Reimagined, an academic forum will be organized on the opening day titled The Art and Built Environment in the Age of Ecological Crisis. Against the backdrop of human experiences of technological diversity, convenience, and utopian illusion of the future, in contrast to the rapid decline of biodiversity and staggering ecological imbalance, biologist, philosopher, artists, architect, activist, critics, and curators will be gathered to propose constructive plans to respond to the current situations. Speakers are Stefano Boeri, Choe Jae Chun, Otobong Nkanga, Sam Bardaouil, Li Xiangning, Andrew Brewerton, Lucia Pietroiusti, Jean-Marie Gallais.

For press enquiries, contact:
Rhiannon and Camille at Pickles PR
rhiannon@picklespr.com
camille@picklespr.com
Editors’ Notes

Chun Kwang Young, Artist

Born in South Korea, Chun Kwang Young (b.1944) is an artist who has been working for about 30 years under the theme of the interconnectedness between living beings and the socio-ecological values of their relationships. He studied at Hong-Ik University in Korea and received his MFA from the Philadelphia College of Art. Chun was named Artist of the Year by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul and awarded Presidential Prize in the 41st Korean Culture and Art Prize by the Ministry of Culture. Chun has held about 40 solo exhibitions, including the ones in Brooklyn Museum, New York (2018), Museum De Reede, Antwerp (2017), Villa Empain, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels (2017), Knoxville Museum of Art, Tennessee (2011), Mori Arts Center, Tokyo (2009), Aldrich Contemporary Museum, Connecticut (2008), The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea (2001), etc. His works are in the collections of the British Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum in London, KUNST Museum Bonn, Yale University Art Gallery, M+ Museum, Hong Kong, National Gallery of Australia, The Leeum Samsung Museum, Seoul, Rockefeller Foundation, New York, among others.

Stefano Boeri, Architect

Stefano Boeri, architect and urban planner, is Professor of Urban Planning at Politecnico di Milano. He has been curator of international architecture exhibitions, among which Shanghai Urban Space Art Season 2017 and São Paulo Calling. He was a member of the Architecture Council for Expo 2015, Councilor for Culture, Fashion and Design of the Municipality of Milan (2011-2013), and a member of the scientific committee of the Uffizi Galleries in Florence (2015-2018). In Milan, since 2017, he has been the creator and Artistic Director of the Milan Arch Week promoted with the Municipality of Milan. Since February 2018 he has been President of Fondazione La Triennale di Milano. The work of the Stefano Boeri Architetti studio ranges from the production of urban visions and architecture to interior and product design, with constant focus on the geopolitical and environmental implications of urban phenomena. Among Stefano Boeri’s main works the Milan Vertical Forest has received the International Highrise Award (2014) and the Best Tall Building Worldwide (2015), and it has been recognized as a worldwide landmark in contemporary architecture.

Yongwoo Lee, Curator

Yongwoo Lee is an art historian and curator. He was the executive director of Shanghai Himalayas Museum and the artistic director of Shanghai Project. Lee was the founding artistic director of Gwangju Biennale initiated in 1995, and the president of Gwangju Biennale Foundation. He was the president of International Biannual Association (IBA). Lee curated numerous exhibitions, including Dansaehkwa (Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Venice), Nam June Paik Retrospective (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul), Film and Video since 1980s (Shanghai Himalayas Museum), The Flower of May (Gwangju Museum of Art), among others. He was a professor of Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts at Shanghai University, and of Korea University. He authored books such as Information and Reality, Nam June Paik, On Video Art, among others.
Manuela Lucà-Dazio, Curatorial Advisor

Manuela Lucà-Dazio holds a degree in Architecture and a PHD in History of Architecture. She is the Executive Director of the Pritzker Architecture Foundation, and Advisor to the LUMA Foundation in Arles, France. From 2009 until 2019 she has been the Managing Director of the Visual Arts and Architecture Department of La Biennale di Venezia, where she was also formerly responsible of the technical organization and production of the International Exhibitions. Earlier than that, she was in charge of the restoration project and permanent exhibition design of the Jewish Museum of Rome, Italy from 2000 until 2009. From 1996 until 1999 she was part of the architectural firm in charge of the restoration and permanent exhibition design of the National Museum of San Martino in Naples, Italy.