

MIJU LEE



Miju Lee (South Korea, 1982) explores human emotion through painting, depicting subjective experiences.

Miju Lee depicts clear objects. However, the images in her paintings seem to be viewed from a “chiaroscuro” state, rather than a clear consciousness, as if they are emerging from fantasies, daydreams, and dozing. Some dreams are so clear that we mistake them for reality, even after we are awake. Resonating with both clear and unclear meanings that cannot be described in words, these deeply emotional, fleeting scenes tend to quickly volatilize from memory. Miju Lee has shown a unique talent for faithfully translating these indescribable scenes into paintings.

“I often pick up one or two clam or conch shells when I walk on the beach. I refer to this habit of mine as “jupjup,” a slang for “picking up and collecting items” circulated initially by Korea’s MMO gaming community.

Each day, we encounter countless objects and pass by millions of feelings and moments. From those, we select a few, refine or add stories to them, then store them in a place of treasures in our hearts. And such somethings, accumulated through the incessant collection, selective process, and storage, become the history of a person.

In her notes, Miju Lee wrote, “When I began to accept that I did not have to be something, I suddenly wanted to capture sights with no purpose. I felt alive with the joy of such acts.” While this type of statement from an artist can be interpreted as representing a pure act of creation, in her case it reminds more of an individual’s struggle to escape from the system. This might be because Miju Lee’s images convey a familiar feeling, but are also very different from anything else in the contemporary art system. Imagine a world where nothing that we do seems strange because nothing can define us: could we ever feel more free?

Selected Individual Exhibitions

2023	<i>F.A.O.S_ Find Offline Shelter with Grip Face</i> , Labibi gallery & Colección Solo, Paris
2022	<i>Jupjup</i> , Shinsegae gallery, Busan
2022	<i>Everyday Gleaning</i> , BK Gallery, Seoul
2019	<i>Draw Lucid Things</i> , yeemock Gallery, Seoul
2018	<i>Miju Lee 's Group exhibition</i> , Gallery Meme, Seoul
2017	<i>Art Plage: Summer diary</i> , Lotte gallery, Seoul
2014	<i>Fulanitu i Menganita</i> , Yeemock Gallery, Seoul

Group Exhibitions

2023	<i>Enigma</i> , Volery gallery, Dubai, UAE
2023	<i>New Space Open</i> , La BIBI Gallery, Palma, Spain
2023	<i>Interaction</i> , Gallery Zberro, Paris, France
2022	<i>Why I draw</i> - Posco Art Museum, Seoul
2022	<i>Meta Fiction Pohang Museum of Steel Art</i> , Pohang
2021	팔팔한도시여행 Aram Museum, Goyang
2021	<i>Typojanchi Turtle and crane</i> , Culture Station Seoul 284
2021	<i>Monster</i> , Mongster, Cheonan Art Center
2021	<i>You and me</i> , MMCA, Gwacheon
2020	<i>Coto Placismo</i> , Cerquone Project, Madrid
2019	<i>Happy Lab</i> , Jungrang Art Center, Seoul
2019	<i>Eco Ico</i> , Gyeongju Art Center, Gyeongju
2018	<i>Guam-Arts wave</i> , Lotte gallery(YDP), Seoul
2018	<i>Memory Theater – Collecting and Assembling</i> , Busan museum of Art, Busan
2018	<i>Secret Garden</i> , Bongsan Art center, Daegu
2017	<i>Future of Art</i> , Daegu Art Factory, Daegu
2017	<i>Squat Seongsu</i> , S-Factory, Seoul
2017	<i>Going to Busan</i> , Lotte Gallery, Busan