

Kiaf SEOUL 2023: Advisory Selections

2023. 9. 7.

First launched in 2002, Kiaf SEOUL returns to the Coex Convention & Exhibition Center for its 22nd edition. The fair will run between 7 and 10 September 2023, with a VIP preview day on 6 September.

With over 210 galleries participating from 20 countries, the fair sees leading South Korean galleries including Kukje Gallery and Arario Gallery return, along with some new additions including Galerie Thomas and Lucie Chang Fine Arts.

Browse our selection of favourites showing in Seoul ahead of the fair opening.



Hansaem Kim, *The New Matter* (2023). Acrylic paint, gold leaf, pigment print, resin. 55 x 42 x 4 cm.

Courtesy the artist and ThisWeekendRoom, Seoul.

Hansaem Kim's *The New Matter* (2023) at ThisWeekendRoom

Hansaem Kim creates unique three-dimensional paintings that are fantastical and bizarre.

Painting characters and symbols inspired by the colourful imagery from religious mythology, cartoons, and video games, the Korean artist is interested in bringing his interpretations of fictional characters into the physical world.

In *The New Matter* (2023), Hansaem depicts a dragon, a cherub, and lion heads in gold leaf. His mythical characters protrude from the painting's lustrous surface. A shrine-like opening frames a skeleton standing among flames in a dark sky of stars, with three red hearts lining the painting's bottom.

There is no clear narrative to Hansaem's artworks. His fantastical characters introduce us to a mysterious world where reality and imagination converge, and kitsch and decadence unite.

It is an intriguing mixture of imagery that calls back to the artist's curiosity for digital graphics and his childhood memories of playing video games.

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