

Haegue Yang: Flat Works 2004-2024
Public Opening: September 18 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Exhibition Discussion: 6:00- 7:00 pm
Free and open to all



Haegue Yang, *Splashing Volcano Ash Gaze–Mesmerizing Mesh #140*, 2022. Hanji on alu-dibond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sept 18-Dec 20, 2024

Haegue Yang: Flat Works 2004-2024 surveys two decades of the artist's two-dimensional explorations, including so-called Lacquer Paintings, Hardware Store Collages, *Trustworthies* (abstractions made from security envelopes, sandpaper, and more), wallpapers, Spice and Vegetable prints, and finally *Mesmerizing Mesh* (cut and folded paper collages based on international shamanistic practices). Aspects of these series have been exhibited in the past, but never comprehensively in order to consider their cumulative impact and the throughlines across each project.

One of the most important Korean artists working today, Yang is best known as a sculptor and installation artist. Nonetheless, she considers her two-dimensional investigations as essential to her creative development. A fundamental recognition of these series is that “flatness” registers a “collapse” of the three-dimensional world as image. The aesthetics of these investigations range from minimalist and discrete to maximalist and engulfing. The exhibition proposes to redefine Yang’s contributions through stunning and revelatory exploration of her evolving “flat” projects, with a “wallpaper” covering the entry to The Arts Club’s historic Mies van der Rohe staircase and newly conceived apparatuses for viewing and displaying *Mesmerizing Mesh*.

This exhibition was organized by Executive Director and Chief Curator Janine Mileaf.

Artist Conversation: September 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm [Details TBD]

Opening: September 18, 2024 5:30-8:00 pm

Special Events: Concert [TBD]

A fully illustrated catalog with essay by scholar Orianna Cacchione, Ph.D., and designed by David Khan-Giordano will accompany the exhibition.

Haegue Yang (1971, Seoul, South Korea) seeks to communicate without language in a primordial and visual way: often complementing her vocabulary of visual abstraction with sensory experiences that include scent, sound, light and tactility. Combining industrial fabrication and folk craftsmanship, Yang explores the affective power of materials in destabilizing the distinction between the modern and pre-modern. Yang’s unique visual language extends across various media (from paper collage to staged theater pieces and performative sculptures), and materials (Venetian blinds, clothing racks, synthetic straw, bells and graph paper) that are torn, lacquered, woven, lit and hung. Her artistic explorations stem from material-based concerns, accompanied by philosophical, political and emotionally charged readings of historical events and figures. Her ongoing research is empowered by underlying references to art history, literature and political history, through which she re-interprets some of her recurrent themes: migration, postcolonial diasporas, enforced exile and social mobility. As a result, these pieces link various geopolitical contexts and histories in an attempt to understand and comment on our own time. Yang’s translation from the political and historical into the formal and abstract, demonstrates her conviction that historical narratives can be made comprehensible without being linguistically explanatory or didactic.

Haegue Yang lives and works in Berlin.

Orianna Cacchione is the Assistant Director and Curator of Exhibitions at the Art, Design & Architecture Museum at University of California, Santa Barbara. Her curatorial practice is committed to expanding the canon of contemporary art to respond to the global circulations of art and ideas. Previously she was Curator of Global Contemporary Art at the Smart Museum of Art and a lecturer in the Department of Art History at University of Chicago. At the Smart Museum, she curated major exhibitions, including: *Monochrome Multitudes* (with Professor Christine Mehring); *The Allure of Matter: Material Art from China* (with Professor Wu Hung); *Samson Young: Silver moon or golden star, which will buy of me?*; and *Tang Chang: The Painting that Is Painted with Poetry Is Profoundly Beautiful*; and organized the Smart's presentation of *Bob Thompson: This House is Mine* (with Jennifer Carty). Prior to joining the Smart Museum, Cacchione was Curatorial Fellow for East Asian Contemporary Art in the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she was responsible for expanding the museum's collection of contemporary art from East Asia. A specialist in contemporary Chinese art, Cacchione holds a Ph.D in Art History, Theory and Criticism from the University of California, San Diego.

Janine Mileaf is Executive Director and Chief Curator of The Arts Club of Chicago. A scholar of the interwar avant-garde, she was formerly Associate Professor at Swarthmore College. She is the author of *Please Touch: Dada and Surrealist Objects After the Readymade* (2010), and has co-edited volumes with Susan Rossen on the history of The Arts Club, as well as Chicago surrealism. At The Arts Club, she has curated solo exhibitions with such international artists as Hurvin Anderson, Kamrooz Aram, Rathin Barman, Kerstin Brätsch, Pedro Cabrita Reis, Abraham Cruzvillegas, Suzanne Jackson, Jennie C. Jones, Janice Kerbel, Sharon Lockhart, Josiah McElheny, Roman Ondak, David Salle, Amy Sillman, and Simon Starling.

Since 1916, **The Arts Club of Chicago** has been a preeminent exhibitor of international art, a forum for established and emerging artists, and a celebrated venue for performers from around the world. For over 100 years, The Arts Club has opened its membership to artists and patrons of the arts, and its exhibitions to the public. At its inaugural meeting, the mission of the Club was defined as: "to encourage higher standards of art, maintain galleries for that purpose, and to promote the mutual acquaintance of art lovers and art workers."

Please direct press inquiries and requests for images to Mia Morettini at press@artsclubchicago.org or call 312-787-3997.