

Lee Leenam Re-Animator

5 October – 4 November 2018

Pontone Gallery is excited to present this exhibition of new digital pieces by the acclaimed Korean artist, Lee Leenam.

His practice spans several formats, from fine art sculpture to digital media, as reflected in his extensive curriculum vitae of international exhibitions and awards. This exhibition focuses on works from his rich and surprising manipulations of digital imagery. Each animated sequence is displayed on a large-screen, 'LED' television.

The artist uses classical, art-historical images as the basis of his animations. He draws on acknowledged masterpieces of the cultural landscape: from Van Gogh, Velasquez, Klimt and eastern masters such as Chinese artist Guo Xi and Korean Kyon An. Upon these he builds scenes of growth, change and conflict. He creates clusters of cumulative events, transformations, overlays and juxtapositions, gradual accretions of information. Over time these events build, multiply and intensify only to dissipate, fade and fall away returning the image to a state of calm. For example, in 'The Battle of Civilisation' what begins as a placid and beautiful rendition of a mythical landscape becomes occluded and invaded by startling science fiction imagery, which builds to a frenzied climax then retreats to reveal the original scene clad in the silent snows of winter.

His playful and surprising interventions induce anticipation. As we wait for the arrival of disparate images and symbols, we experience a mesmerising dramatic tension: how will the scene have its meaning altered?

Common to all these pieces is a sense of continuous modification and flux. In Lee Leenam's hands the well-known icon becomes a jumping-off point for lyrical invention. He breathes new life and re-animates the authoritatively familiar. He retains an over-riding concern for the aesthetic value of his source material, while emphasising the point that everything is mutable in his poetic scenes of growth and decay.



Miindo, Velasquez and Some Ants | 2011 | Two 55" LED TVs | 4m 50s



Parkyeon Waterfall | 2017 | 55" LED TV | 6min 39sec

Pontone

GALLERY

LEE LEENAM

1969 Born in Damyang, Jeonnam, South Korea

RECENT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Hwang Seontae, with Pontone Gallery, London, UK
'A Path to Peace', Moscow, Russia
- 2016 'UPDATE 6,' ZEBRASTRAAT Nij Sint-Jacobs, Gent, Belgium
'Lee Leenam's Good Morning Digital,' Jeorgetown Festival, Penang, Malaysia
'The Lights of Signal,' Whitebox Museum, Beijing
'At the rising of the roots,' Ando Fine Art Gallery, Berlin, Germany
'Lee Lee-Nam Selected Exhibition,' Katara Art Centre, Qatar
- 2015 The Korea Society Gallery Individual Exhibitions, New York, USA
'Language of light,' Gallery GMA, Seoul, South Korea
- 2014 Galerie Michael Schultz, Berlin, Germany
'Light,' Gana Art Centre, Seoul, South Korea
'Heritage, Legacy and Light,' UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France
- 2013 'Good Night Analog Good Morning Digital,' Kwai Fun Hin Art Gallery, Hong Kong
Kalamazoo Museum of Art, Michigan, USA

SELECTED RECENT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Inter-Korean Summit Exhibition, Panmunjeom (Joint Security Area), Korea
'Media Art Exhibition for NAM JUNE PAIK & LEENAM,' Kaist, South Korea
- 2017 'It's a wonderful digital life!' EDF, Paris
- 2016 'BILL VIOLA, LEE LEENAM,' Sint-Jacobskerk, Ghent, Belgium
'Gardens of The World,' Museum Rietberg Zurich, Switzerland
'Mother of Pearl Lacquerware from Korea,' Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, USA
- 2015 'Flowers to Forest,' The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Missouri, USA
- 2014 'Simultaneous Echoes,' Fortabat Art Collection, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2013 'Korean Contemporary,' Schultz Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 'The Special Exhibition of Arts Council Korea – Re Booting,' Yan Huang Art Museum, Beijing, China

COLLECTIONS

Incheon International Airport (Incheon, South Korea)
Zebrastraat Museum (Gent, Belgium)
Memory Museum of National Library (Seoul, South Korea),
UN Headquarters (New York, USA)
Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (San Francisco, USA)
Suning Art Museum (Shanghai, China)
Yale University (Connecticut, USA)
Embassy of Korea in America (Washington, USA)
Hu Jin Tao first lady (China)
Leeum Samsung Museum of Art (Seoul, South Korea)
The Museum of Photography (Seoul, South Korea)
Colección Solo (Madrid, Spain)
H.H. Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak (Abu Dhabi, UAE)



Gogh – The Starry Night, Arles | 2016 | 55" LED TV | 7min 30sec



The Battle of Civilisation – Star Wars V | 2016 | 55" LED TV | 11min 14sec