**Kim Bumsu**

**Sacred Cinema**

12 April – 5 May 2019

Pontone Gallery is proud to present, for the first time in the UK, an exhibition by South Korean artist Kim Bumsu. Trained in his homeland and the United States, Kim’s work has been extensively shown in the Far East and Europe. This is an exclusive opportunity to experience his idiosyncratic and intriguing mixed-media constructions.

The artist makes wall-mounted ‘light boxes’, fabricated from acrylic sheet, exposed film stock and LED lighting. Strips of old and discarded film are cut up and arranged to create large, complex collages, which are backlit by the LEDs within the boxes. Multi-coloured, pixellated patterns, reminiscent of mandalas and sacred geometries, create a glowing, kaleidoscopic effect. It is only on closer inspection that the nature of the source material is revealed. The viewer discovers a plethora of tiny and intriguing images, some recognisable, others less so.

The cutting and pasting process, intrinsic to making the collages, corresponds with that of the film editor, who assembles fragments of information to make a coherent whole. Kim Bumsu’s compositions assimilate the disparate nature of their components and unite them into something new. The artist salvages and re-purposes that which is lost or unwanted. Kim explains this as an act of ‘romanticism’ that ‘arouses compassion’. Wishing to rescue what has been abandoned, his fractured re-making of lost narratives reminds us of the pre-digital, analogue age and its particularly tangible pleasures.

The format of this work brings to mind altarpieces, the sacred displays of temples and the iconography of cathedrals. It also elicits a ‘bright and shiny’, secular appeal, akin to the seductive displays of the luxury shopping outlet. The work oscillates between the sacred and profane, referencing the rich sensory experience of immersive cinema, the adrenal rush of consumerism and the awe of the spiritual.
KIM BUMSU
Born in Goyang, South Korea, 1965

Education
1991 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Hong-Ik University, Seoul
1998 Master of Fine Arts, School of Visual Art, New York

Selected Solo Exhibitions
2018 Emotional City, ArtStation Museum, Seoul
2016 KIM BUM SU, Gallery KHAN, Goyang
2012 Emotional City, Jangheung Art Park, Blue Space, Yangju

Selected Group Exhibitions
2018 10th ANNIVERSARY, Gallery Paryoung, Paju
2017 THE PASSION, Yang Pyeong Art Museum, Yang Pyeong
2016 Singapore Contemporary Art Show, Suntec, Singapore
International Contemporary Art Project, Ulsan
As the Moon Waxes and Wanes, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon
THE MEETING OF ART AND SCIENCE, Posco Gallery, Pohang
2015 The Future is Now, MMCA (Friche Belle de Mai), Marseille
Illusion Bite, Gallery Orchard, Seoul
2014 The Future is Now, MAXXI, Rome
Dangin-Ri Art Service Art Fair, Gallery JJ, Seoul
Light Arts, VM Art Museum, Jeon Ju
春夜喜雨, Art&Summer, Busam
Cool Running, Lotte Gallery, Seoul
Emerging Artists Awards 19, Aram Nuri Arts Centre, Goyang
Happiness in Celebration of 2014 UN Public Service Forum, Kintex
2014 Seoul Open Art Fair, COEX, Seoul
Korea Galleries Art Fair, COEX, Seoul
ASIA Contemporary Art SHOW 2013, JW Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong
Light Art, Pohang Museum of Steel Art, Pohang
The Future is Now, National Contemporary Museum, Seoul
Blissful Time, Yang Pyeong Art Museum, Yang Pyeong
2012 Love is 37.5, Gana Art, Seoul
20+Contact with Arts, Aram Nuri Museum, Goyang
Shadow Make Story, Jeon buk Museum of Art, Jeon Buk
Healing Camp, Gana Art, Seoul
The Film 2012, Daegu Art Museum, Daegu
Christmas in Korea, Lotte Gallery, Seoul
Small Work, Jangheung Art Park, Yangju

Collections
National Museum of Art, Seoul
Jang Soung Sculpture Park, Jang Soung
Art and Science, National Science Museum, Daejeon
Asan Medical Centre, Seoul
Samsung Corporation, Seoul
CJ Culture Foundation, Seoul
Savina Museum, Seoul

LOVE | 2016 | Movie Film, Acrylic, LED | 30 x 60 x 10 cm (11.5 x 23.5 x 4 in)

Hidden Emotion IV | 2016 | Movie Film, Acrylic, LED | 45 x 45 x 8 cm (17.5 x 17.5 x 3 in)

LOVE | 2016 | Movie Film, Acrylic, LED | 50 x 90 x 10 cm (19.5 x 35.5 x 4 in)