

GALLERY JSA

214 West 39th Street, New York, NY 10018
www.galleryjsa.com

Art Palm Beach

January 16 - 20

Booth 331

Gallery JSA is pleased to announce its participation in the 2019 edition of Art Palm Beach. Our Booth 331 will feature a dynamic presentation of recent works by Tae Kyu Yim in addition to his seminal work *Erehwon*(2009) will be a part of Art Palm Beach's special selections of art works.

In his first solo exhibition *Never Ending Stories* at Gallery JSA, an amusing body of works created in the style seldom seen in New York was presented. Growing up in Korea in the midst of the economic boom and movement for democratization in the 80s and 90s, Yim witnessed the chaos created by adults. As the restructuring of Korean society continued, a collision of values and competitive environment were inevitable. Undoubtedly, such experience in his youth left a strong imprint on the artist. Concurrently, the rise of Post-Modernism in Korea influenced by Western art community gave birth to a new generation of artists. These social, economic, and cultural changes are reflected in Yim's artistic expression — recurring anonymous characters in his paintings that are neither kids nor adults called "Kidults." The narratives in his works frequently recount on his own personal struggles in connection to generational issues in Korea. In doing so, he rejects the social notion of burdening individuals with complex responsibilities associated with adulthood.

Erehwon (2009), approximately 27 feet wide, is a colossal painting consists of 12 wooden panels. It depicts a utopia of "Kidults" living and playing together harmoniously. The term "Erehwon," a reversed word for nowhere, is first coined by an English poet Samuel Butler's novel. The title implies a utopia that does not exist in reality, thus suggesting its inexistent nature. The painting is comprised of "Kidults" and other fictional characters in the surrealistic, symbolic, and imaginative environment based on the artist's personal experience in Beijing.

A contemporary artist with a background in Asian traditional painting, Yim has developed an original approach to Asian painting techniques utilizing layers of paper and ink, in conjunction with other materials. He applies ink on thick, multi-layered paper, then covers it with a thin layer of paper before ink dries, where the artist subsequently draws with a sharp object. This original technique allows the ink to reappear through the scratched lines on the top layer in which the final product is drawing-like, rough and bold lines. He then uses this technique to draw characters and objects using oriental colors to portray the daily life and dreams of modern people. With the bold lines and colors combined with abundant stories packed in multiple wooden panels, *Erehwon* emits brilliant energy.

ABOUT THE ARTIST: Tae Kyu Yim was born in 1976 in Seoul. He currently lives and works in Beijing. Tae Kyu Yim received a BFA degree in Asian Painting at Seoul National University in 2000. A contemporary artist with a background in oriental painting, Yim has developed an original approach to classical Asian painting techniques with layers of paper and ink, in conjunction with other materials. His works frequently narrate and juxtapose the reality of cultural and social issues, as well as his personal struggles as a man. Yim has held a number of solo exhibitions and group exhibitions internationally. His paintings were auctioned at Christie's Hong Kong and his work is part of the main collections of the KUMHO Museum and the Song Eun Art & Culture Foundation in Seoul, South Korea.

ABOUT GALLERY JSA: JSA is an acronym for the Joint Security Area, which is the only portion of the Korean Demilitarized Zone where South and North Korean forces stood face-to-face. As of April 2018, it has become a symbol of peace and reconciliation to many people in Korea. Gallery JSA envisions a harmonious art space that accommodates artists with diverse backgrounds.

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ABOUT ART PALM BEACH: For 30 years, organizers David and Lee Ann Lester, have inspired the South Florida art and cultural landscape by promoting trendsetting and thought-provoking contemporary art fairs in an environment where art collectors, dealers and enthusiasts can mingle among like-minded individuals. Together, they have contributed to the inception of over 120 international fairs including Art Miami, International Fine Art and Antiques Palm Beach, Art Dallas and Art Asia Hong Kong.