

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yun Hyongkeun

On View at Blum & Poe, New York

New York, October 30 — December 23, 2015

Opening Reception: Friday, October 30, 6-8pm



New York, August XX12, 2015—Blum & Poe is pleased to present a concise survey of 13 works by Yun Hyongkeun (1928–2007), one of the leading figures of Tansaekhwa, the monochrome painting movement that redefined Korean art starting in the mid-1960s. This is Yun's first solo exhibition with the gallery and his first posthumous solo presentation in North America.

The Tansaekhwa artists variously soaked canvas, pushed paint, dragged pencils, ripped paper, and otherwise manipulated the materials of painting in ways that questioned the terms by which the medium was known. One of the most important and successful artistic movements of 20th-century Korea, Tansaekhwa was promoted in Seoul, Tokyo, and Paris, quickly becoming the globally recognized face of contemporary Korean art.

From the beginning of the 1970s, Yun produced his distinctive *Umber Blue* series. Straddling the division between ink and oil painting, these abstractions are neither geometric nor gestural. Restricting his palette to umber and ultramarine, Yun diluted the paint with turpentine and allowed it to wash over the canvas, layering it over days, weeks or months to create intense fields of darkness. Each layer of pigment seeped into the fibers at a different rate, resulting in blurred edges along the unmarked expanses of canvas. In the 1990s, these boundaries gradually became more defined, eventually sharpening into hard edges in the final decade of the artist's life.

This exhibition has been organized in collaboration with the Estate of Yun Hyongkeun and PKM Gallery, Seoul.

Previously, Yun was featured in the survey *From All Sides: Tansaekhwa on Abstraction*, held in September 2014 at Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, and curated by Joan Kee, Associate Professor of History of Art at the University of Michigan. He was also included in *PROPORTIO*, a critically acclaimed exhibition that explored universal proportions in art,

BLUM & POE

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science, music and architecture, held from May to November 2015 at the Palazzo Fortuny in Venice, Italy.

Yun Hyongkeun was born in Miwŏn, Korea, in 1928, and graduated from the Department of Painting, Hongik University, Seoul, in 1957. He has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions in Korea, Japan, Germany, France and the United States, including at the Judd Foundation, New York (1993), and the Chinati Foundation, Marfa, TX (1994). The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Strasbourg, France, held a major retrospective in 2002. His work has also been celebrated in landmark surveys such as *Dansaekhwa: Korean Monochrome Painting*, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwacheon (2012); *Korean Abstract Art: 1958–2008*, Seoul Museum of Art (2008); Gwangju Biennale (2000); Venice Biennale (1995); *Working With Nature: Traditional Thought in Contemporary Art from Korea*, Tate Liverpool (1992); and the São Paulo Biennial (1969, 1975).

Image credit: Yun Hyongkeun, *Umber-Blue*, 1978, oil on linen, 51 1/8 x 72 7/8 inches, Courtesy of Yun Seong-ryeol and Blum & Poe, Los Angeles/New York/Tokyo

About Blum & Poe

Timothy Blum and Jeffrey Poe founded Blum & Poe in September 1994 with the intent to show international contemporary art in all media. Blum brought over five years of experience in the Japanese art world, and Poe provided a strong awareness of emerging artists in Los Angeles. Together they have represented an increasingly influential roster of contemporary artists, most since the start of their careers, including Sam Durant, Anya Gallaccio, Mark Grotjahn, Friedrich Kunath, Florian Maier-Aichen, Dave Muller, Takashi Murakami, and Yoshitomo Nara. In 2009 Blum & Poe purchased and renovated their current 22,000 square foot complex on La Cienega Boulevard, where they have held museum-caliber surveys, examining the work of the Japanese Mono-ha artists (2012), the Korean Tansaekhwa monochrome painters (2014), and the European postwar movement Cobra (2015). In 2014, Blum & Poe opened galleries in New York and Tokyo to focus on intimately scaled projects, both cutting edge and historical, in tandem with an expansive program of exhibitions, lectures, performances, book-signings, and concerts at its base in Los Angeles.

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New York, June 8 – September 8, Monday – Friday, 10am – 6pm

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