

Chronology of Yun Hyong-keun

- 1928 On April 12th, Yun Hyong-keun is born between father Yun Yong-han who was a government official and mother Suh Im-deuk as the third child in the family in Miwon-ri, Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province.
- 1945 Yun graduates from Cheongju Commercial High School.
Yun receives art training from Ahn Seung-gak and Oh Dong-myeong.
Korea liberates from Japan.
- 1947 Yun enrolls in Fine Arts Department, Seoul National University. Kim Whanki*, who later becomes Yun's father-in-law, is the head of the department.
- 1949 Yun is detained in Seoul Jungbu Police Station for 42 days for involvement in national antiestablishment movement. Yun takes a leave of absence from Seoul National University.
Yun is appointed as an art instructor at Cheongju Girls' Commercial High School.
- 1950 Korean War breaks out.
Yun makes a living painting portraits in the US Army base until 1957 supporting his family and providing university tuitions for his three younger siblings.
- 1953 Armistice is declared on Korean War.
- 1954 Yun persistently requests to return to his studies at Seoul National University, but is rejected.
Yun enrolls and graduates from Fine Arts Department at Hongik University* with the help of Kim Whanki, a professor at Hongik University at the time, and meets Kim's eldest daughter Kim Young Suk, a student at the same university.

- 1956 Yun is incarcerated for 6 months in Seodaemun Prison for serving the North Korean army during the war, and for partaking in the student movement while attending Seoul National University.
- 1957 Yun graduates Hongik Univerisy.
- 1958 Yun starts teaching at Cheongju Girls' High School.
- 1960 Yun marries Kim Young Suk.
- 1961 Yun heads to Seoul and starts teaching at Sookmyung Girls' High School.
Yun participates in his first group exhibition *Engagement* at Information Center Gallery, Seoul following a suggestion of a fellow painter Hwang Yong Yop.
- 1966 Yun holds his first solo exhibition at the Press Center Gallery, Seoul.
Yun's son Seong-ryeol is born.
Yun begins teaching at Hongik University.
- 1967 Yun moves to Seogyo-dong and builds his own studio.
- 1969 Yun is included in the São Paulo Biennale with a recommendation from Lee Yil*, the commissioner for the Korean Pavilion.
Yun becomes close friends with Lee.
- 1973 Sookmyung Girls' High School grants admission to an unqualified student. For complaining this corrupt action to the school's president, Yun is detained to in Seodaemun Prison about a month. Yun is charged with violating anti-communist laws; that he owned a hat similar to the type worn by Vladimir Lenin.
Yun remains blacklisted by the police until 1980.

Yun resigns from his teaching post at Sookmyung Girls' High School and commits himself fully into his art work.

Yun establishes his unique style of *Umber-Blue* paintings.

1974 Yun's father-in-law Kim passes away in New York.

Joseph P. Love*, who was visiting Korea at the time of the group exhibition *Independent* held at National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Deoksugung Palace), Seoul, sees Yun's work and introduces Yun to Takashi Yamamoto at Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo.

1976 Yun's first solo exhibition abroad is held at Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo.

Yun's work is officially introduced into the modern art scene in Japan.

1978 A solo exhibition opens at Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo. Lee Ufan writes a laudatory essay on Yun's work in the exhibition catalogue.

Yun's work receives raving reviews from Nakahara Yusuke, the most acclaimed art critic in Japan at the time.

Yun wins the 5th Korean Fine Art Grand-Prix.

1980 Gwangju Massacre occurs. Yun gets angry about this and decides to live and work in Paris until 1982 with wife Young Suk. Yun gets acquainted with Kim Tschang-yeul, Chung Sang-hwa, and Kim Guiline.

1983 Yun builds and moves into his own home-cum-studio in Seogyo-dong, Seoul.

1984 Yun is appointed as a professor of Fine Arts Department at Kyungwon University.

1986 A solo exhibition is held at Inkong Gallery, Daegu.

1989 A solo exhibition opens at Inkong Gallery*, Seoul.

- 1990 Yun wins the 1st Cultural Award of Kim Swoo Geun Foundation*.
Yun is appointed as the president of Kyungwon University.
- 1991 Yun meets Donald Judd for the first time in Judd's solo exhibition at Inkong Gallery, Seoul.
Judd highly praises Yun for his simple structural work.
- 1992 Yun resigns his position as the president of Kyungwon University.
Yun participates in a group exhibition *Working with Nature-Traditional Thought in Contemporary Art from Korea* at Tate Liverpool, UK along with Park Seo-Bo, Chung Chang-Sup, Ha Chong-Hyun and Lee Kangso.
- 1993 A solo exhibition is held at Judd Foundation, New York.
A solo exhibition is held at Locks Gallery, Philadelphia.
- 1994 A solo exhibition is held at the Chinati Foundation.
- 1995 Yun is invited to participate in inaugural exhibition of the Korean Pavilion at the 46th Venice Biennale.
- 1997 Yun's grandson Duk Jun is born.
A solo exhibition opens at Stiftung für Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen.
- 2001 A Solo exhibition opens at Art Sonje Museum, Gyeongju.
- 2002 Yun lives and works in Paris for 3 months, preparing for a solo exhibition at Galerie Jean Brolly, Paris.
- 2006 Yun is diagnosed with biliary tract cancer and undergoes a surgery.

2007 Biliary tract cancer recurs and Yun passes away on December 28th.

* Kim Hwanki (1913-1974)

As master of Korean modern painting, Kim explored the identity of Korean modern painting throughout his life. Kim was a professor in the Fine Art Department at Seoul National University and Hongik University. Kim lived in Paris from 1956 to 1958, and in the last years of his life, Kim moved to New York where the search for his own visual language came to fruition.

* Hongik University

Hongik University is noted for the Department of Fine Arts which has long been recognized as the leader of the development of Korean modern and contemporary art. The department has produced many talented students who became influential artists in Korea as well as abroad.

* Lee Yil (1932-1997)

As a prominent art critic, Lee supported the modern art movement in Korea in the 1970's. He introduced and promoted important Dansaekhwa artists such as Yun Hyong-keun, Park Seo-Bo, Ha Chong-Hyun and Chung Chang-Sup. Throughout his critical works, Lee focused on differentiating the fundamentals of Korean Dansaekhwa aesthetics from that of Western Minimalism.

*Joseph P. Love (1929-1992)

As an American-born, Tokyo-based art critic, Love introduced contemporary Japanese art abroad via American art journals. Through Lee Ufan, Love became interested in Korean art and was fascinated by Yun's works when he visited Seoul in 1974. In 1976, Love arranged Yun's first solo exhibition at Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo. The text Lee wrote for the exhibition leaflet still remains as one of the major essays on Yun.

* Inkong Gallery (1986-2001)

In 1986, Hwang Hyon-uk relocated his Inkong Gallery from Daegu to Seoul which became Korea's first contemporary art gallery with its high-ceilings and white walls, providing an exhibition space which accommodate large-scale works. Yun actively advised and sponsored Hwang in establishing the very first contemporary art space in Korea. Inkong Gallery greatly contributed to the development of Korean contemporary art to meet the international standards through presenting works by renowned artists such as Yun Hyong-keun, Lee Ufan, Lee Kangso, Donald Judd and Richard Long.

* Kim Swoo Geun Foundation

Korean architect Kim Swoo Geun (1931-1986) is acknowledged as one of the most important architect of the 20th century in Korea; Kim Swoo Geun Foundation was founded in 1988 by the founding members from various disciplines who were committed to providing directions in art, architecture and design, reflecting the principles and philosophy of Kim. The foundation promotes a wider understanding of Kim's artistic legacy and supports contemporary art and culture through awards, exhibitions and educational programs.