

# PKM GALLERY

## Suh Seung-Won: *The Interplay*

June 5 – July 19, 2025 | PKM

40, Samcheong-ro 7-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul | T. 02 734 9467

PKM Gallery is pleased to present *The Interplay*, a solo exhibition of Suh Seung-Won <sup>b. 1941</sup>, a leading figure in Korean contemporary abstract art, from June 5<sup>th</sup> to July 19<sup>th</sup>. Following his previous survey exhibition at the gallery in 2021, the exhibition highlights Suh's recent aesthetic and artistic explorations.

Since the 1960s, Suh has developed a distinctive visual language that fuses abstraction with the Korean aesthetic sense. As a founding member of the geometric abstraction group *Origin* 1962– and the avant-garde art collective *AG* 1969–1975, Suh played a pivotal role in breaking away from entrenched custom convention and guiding post-war Korean art to a contemporary esprit. Also, Suh established and continuously explored his signature concept so-called *Simultaneity*—that began around 1967 and has sustained for over five decades. At its core, *Simultaneity* is a philosophical reflection that reveals the invisible realm of nirvana, where all things exist in harmonious equilibrium.

*The Interplay* unveils Suh's most recent works, which deepen the notion of *Simultaneity* through harmonies of colors, forms, and structure. In these paintings, subtle and soft hues seem to emanate from the back of the canvas, floating gently in borderless rectangles. Color fields subtly permeate each other, creating a spatial depth within the flat surface. Initially recognized for geometric abstraction that has reductive compositions of line, plane, form, and color, Suh began to present a more expanded abstraction around the 1990s, dissolving boundaries and allowing forms and backgrounds to interact mutually. The recent *Simultaneity* series, completed by the tactile sensitivity of fingertips, purely reveals the matured practice of Suh, who entered the world of quiet meditation after the periods of innovation and deconstruction.

In Suh's oeuvre, the memories of his childhood in a traditional Korean house (*hanok*) are underlying. For instance, his geometric compositions stem from lattice bars of traditional windows and doors, while the surfaces with light and color originate from shimmering sunlight and moonlight filtering through traditional Korean paper (*changhoji*) on the structure. The way his mother laundered white garments through rhythmic pounding inspired Suh's unique method of *filtered* color. Indeed, the traditional five cardinal colors of Korea (*obangsaek*) seen in his early works have been distilled and refined over decades, appearing as transparent and clear hues over time. Suh's recent paintings blend Korean identity with contemporary abstraction, bridging time and space to transcend the limits of the flat canvas and reveal an infinite and liberated world of nirvana.

For this exhibition, Suh presents small to mid-sized paintings, carefully selected for their visual density and depth rather than their physical scale. The atmosphere—created by the dialogue between the works and the space that holds them—echoes the inner rhythm of Suh's compositions, where form and void, harmony and tension unfold in balance. More than a mere collection of images, the exhibition embodies Suh's artistic universe as an integrated whole, giving viewers profound contemplation and resonance.

PKMGALLERY.COM

40, Samcheong-ro 7-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul, 03049, Korea

T. +82 2 734 9467 | F. +82 2 734 9470

# PKM GALLERY

Suh Seung-Won received both his BFA and MFA in painting from Hongik University in Seoul. Over the decades, he has participated in numerous exhibitions at major art institutions across countries, including Korea, Japan, Taiwan, the United States, Canada, and France, and in major international art events such as the Paris Biennale, São Paulo Biennale, and Gwangju Biennale. Suh was one of the featured artists in the seminal exhibition *Five Hinsek 'White': 5 Korean Artists* at Tokyo Gallery in 1975, which was pivotal in bringing Korean modern art onto the international stage. More recently, Suh participated in the major traveling exhibition *Only the Young: Experimental Art in Korea, 1960s–1970s* 2023–24, held at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA) in Seoul, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, and the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. Suh has received numerous awards, including the Korean Art Grand Award 1978, the Gwangju Culture and Arts Award 2013, and the Best Artist Award from the Korean Art Critics Association 2017. His work is included in prominent public collections including the British Museum in London, the Brooklyn Museum in New York, Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi, the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Korea, and Leeum Museum of Art in Seoul.