

DO HO SUH in between

The Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art is pleased to announce the first comprehensive solo exhibition in Japan of the internationally acclaimed Asian artist, Do Ho Suh.

Born in Seoul, Korea, studying in America, and now based in New York and London, Do Ho Suh (b. 1962) travels the globe pursuing his practice, and as a man on the move, repeatedly probes the never-ending questions of where he comes from, and what he is. The dynamism of the works of Suh, products of meticulous technique and countless hours of handwork, bears handcraft elements from Suh's native Korea, and the strength arising out of group solidarity that could be described as a mark of the Asian character. Since the mid-1990s, Suh has built full-scale "house" motifs using semitransparent cloth to create, among other dwellings, the traditional homes of his birthplace, and his apartment in the United States, in a series of stunning soft sculptures attracting considerable comment. The "houses" in which we spend so many vital hours of our lives are places that nurture our identities, and by recreating their spaces and structures, Suh questions where public and private, faraway birthplace and current abode, land of our memories and real places meet, and the lines between them.

Individuals grounded in "houses" form groups that make up societies. Suh's works take items such as uniforms and army dogtags that identify individuals as part of a specific group, and while challenging the authorities that confine individuals within particular frameworks, develops these items into installations that are metaphors for the enormous power generated when the small, individual power of nameless people is combined. Turning his gaze on the relationships between the identities of individuals and groups, Suh discerns in the individual collective things such as history, culture, society and the state.

As an Asian on the move, negotiating different cultures while reflecting on his origins, Suh nurtures and acquires new identities. "Do Ho Suh: in between" introduces the attempts of the artist in a global era in which economies and societies would come to a halt without the intersection of people, objects and information to explore the self and make the world a smaller place, while negotiating cultures of different origins and moving to and fro between tradition and innovation, individual and group.

Previous presentations of Suh's works in Japan have focused primarily on his fabric pieces. He has also turned out various sculptural pieces in different materials. This solo exhibition is the first in Japan to offer a true overview of Suh's career to date, from early efforts to latest pieces. Suh's architectural works manifest a site-specific composition that appears to be in dialog with the surrounding museum architecture, making this a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for visitors too.

All Images ©Do Ho Suh



Fallen Star- 1/5th Scale
2008-2012
Courtesy of the artist and Lehmann
Maupin Gallery, New York



Fallen Star- 1/5th Scale
2008-2012
Courtesy of the artist and Lehmann
Maupin Gallery, New York



Blueprint
2010
Courtesy of the artist and
Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New
York

Highlights of the exhibition

- 1: To present a comprehensive picture of the practice of an international artist and leading light of the Asian contemporary art scene. A solo exhibition introducing Suh's approaches using a diverse range of materials other than the fabric works previously shown in Japan.
- 2: A unique opportunity to savor and become familiar with, through contemporary art, the culture of Japan's neighbor Korea, hugely popular recently thanks to the proliferation in Japan of facets of Korean subculture such as TV dramas and music. This includes the first showing of *Fallen Star* (2008-2011), an exact reproduction of the artist's homes in Seoul and New York, right down to the furniture and fixtures in the rooms.
- 3: An exhibition allowing visitors to truly appreciate contemporary Asian art fusing the traditional and contemporary, courtesy of pieces featuring characteristically beautiful Asian handwork, and innovativeness and dynamism born out of an international perspective.

Gallery A-1, A-2, B-1: Displacement and Mobile Architecture

After studying Oriental painting at Seoul National University, Do Ho Suh traveled to the United States where he completed a course in sculpture at Yale. In 1999 he used semitransparent fabric to create his first series of architectural pieces, modeled on his family home in Korea. By reconfiguring in foldable, movable fabric the "houses" that symbolize family, tradition and the roots of nation, from the situation of being displaced Suh links familiar spaces to the conceptual spaces of memory and nostalgia. The show will also feature important architectural works that have become symbolic of Suh, such as the reproduction in an intricate model of a daydream in which the artist's family home and NY apartment collide in time and space.

Gallery A-3, A-4: The Power of People

The individual is one element of the group, while the group comprises a gathering of individuals. Nameless individuals may seem insignificant when confronted by collective power, their strength incomparable with that of cooperative bodies such as society and state, or the scale of the powers that be, but serious power can only come from individuals. The way in which individual and group function is also a metaphor for the West and Asia. Suh, an Asian artist, introduces us to a practice that takes the relationship between individual and group and gives it visual form in delicate, highly-charged, dynamic sculptures composed of collections of human figures.

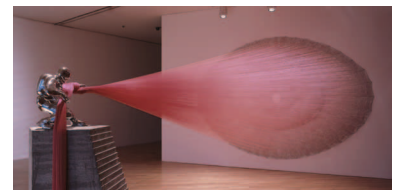
- Date: August 4- October 21, 2012
- Opening hours: 10:00-17:00 (Last Admission 16:30)
- Closed: Mondays (except August 6, September 17 and October 8), August 7, September 18 and October 9
- Admission charges: Adults 1,000 (800) yen, College Students 700 (600) yen, High School Students 500 (400) yen *Figures in brackets () are the charges for advance-purchase and groups of 30 or more persons.
- Organized by: Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, The Chugoku Shimibun
- Grant from: The Kao Foundation for Arts and Sciences
- Supported by: Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hiroshima, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, Osaka Korean Cultural Center Osaka, Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education, RCC Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Hiroshima FM Broad Casting Co., Ltd., Onomichi FM Broad Casting Co., Ltd.



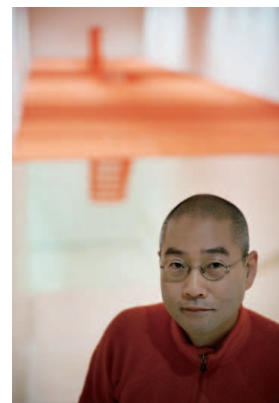
Floor
1997-2000
Courtesy of the artist and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York



Some/ One
2001



Paratrooper-I
2001-2003
Collection of Danielle and David Ganek, New York



Portrait: Do Ho Suh

Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art

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