

SEUNG-TAEK LEE

7 October – 9 November, 2014

GALLERY HYUNDAI New Space Opening Reception: 7 October, 5PM

Pioneer of Korean avant-garde art, Seung-taek Lee (b. 1932, Kowon), will be holding a solo exhibition at GALLERY HYUNDAI New Space from October 7th to November 9th. This is one of his major exhibitions following his solo exhibitions at the Sungkok Art Museum and the Nam June Paik Art Center.

Seung-taek Lee is a representative artist of the Korean avant-garde. Worked on the periphery for fifty years, his name remained unknown until the year of 2009, when he received the Nam June Paik Art Center International Art Award. Since then, he has received acclaim for his distinctive art world. Hans Ulrich Obrist of Serpentine Gallery, Tobias Berger of M+ Museum, and Adriano Pedrosa of Frieze, evaluated him as an artist whose name shall remain in the history of art. Seung-taek Lee, during the exhibition, will participate in the Frieze Sculpture Park and Frieze Masters in London; he is the first Korean artist to have been chosen for this. The artist who continues to work more passionately than ever, and his work, Godret Stone, is collected and exhibited in Tate Modern in London, as a part of Tate Collection, along with other works of worldly renown artists.

Three main subjects lies in Seung-taek Lee's work: dematerialization, expansion of the exhibition space, and modernization of the tradition. His works share the common background of origin: negation, resistance, challenge, and creation. In college, the artist was fascinated by the philosophy of Nietzsche. This philosophy became the root of 'negation' which is a core of his art world. The artist realized that new things could be created by the negation and refusal of preexisting objects. The non-material series that he created using materials that are difficult to visualize, such as water, fire, wind and smoke, and tied series created through transforming object's original shape by using a cord are his representative works.

In this exhibition, the artist's representative sculptures and installation works will be presented along with the video recordings of his performance art that will be shown for the first time. Commonly, performance art vanishes without physical form and remains only in the form of recordings. This show can be considered as a huge preservation project, recording the sixty-year history of Seung-taek Lee's performance art. This would be an opportunity to experience the works of Seung-taek Lee, the world renown modern artist.