



YOON JI-EUN
Unanswered Questions

drawing – painting – wooden relief

22.03 > 11.05.2024

OPENING

Thursday, March 21st – 5pm > 8:30pm

TALK

Thursday, April 26th at 8pm – at the gallery

Yoon Ji-Eun

will be in conversation

Barbara Soyer

co-founder of the publishing house The Drawer, art critic, author of the book

DESSIN DANS L'ART CONTEMPORAIN - éditions Pyramid, 2022

Days go by in a series of routines and ordinary moments: children grow up, seasons come and go, as we live one news story after the other. The world is constantly changing. Absorbed in our own daily routine, we seem to leave the fundamental issues of life in the background, until we eventually have to face them and their questions of meaning, utility, and demands.

Yoon Ji-Eun's new collection of wooden reliefs and drawings, *Unanswered Questions*, borrows its title from composer Tristan Murail and acts as a way of materialising the artist's reaction to existential questioning. In a time of ever-present violence of all kind, the artist wished to offer her works as a source of comfort and relief.

Her introduction to new musical genres opened Yoon Ji-Eun in turn to new perspectives. By immersing herself in a specific sound world while at work, she can capture and translate the feelings awakened by pending phrases or slowly-dying sounds, beyond the human perception...

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Virage | 2024
coloured pencils and
watercolor on paper
79 x 67 cm

Through these experiences of intense doubt and equally intense presence, lived on the physical state that only music induces, she breathes into her works a renewed poetry and energy. From attempting to foresee and control her existence, she seems to have led way to embracing the movement of life, and to embedding herself in it.

From the start, the term “landscape” comes to mind when referring to Yoon Ji-Eun’s world. In her recent works, her landscape is now found transformed: on her juxtaposed vignettes and figurative fragments, she overlapped other layers. Space is no longer relative and linear, but deep and full of shapes twirling to the surface. Here and there, gathered shapes rise, some in a supple movement, others in angles, without any patent link. Thus forms an ethereal dialogue between independent configurations in an ever-changing world. The drawn areas, reminiscent of collages, create a slight and subtle tension through their fluid, sensual shapes in bright colours. Like notes of a spatial music, they create an invisible flow for suns and planets to cross. In some places, gates and the simplest architectures in watercolour create a shadow theatre in the background. In other drawings, floating circles overlook the composition, like portals to parallel dimensions.

Time is an ever-present concept, both through the rhythm of the artist’s compositions and through their physicality, in particular her layered wooden reliefs. Yoon Ji-Eun likes to go along the grain of the wood to bring about organic outlines. By carving it, she reveals its layers and further conveys the idea of temporality.



A l'aube du jour | 2024
pencil, coloured pencil, acrylic and wood engraving
37 x 106,5 cm

Yoon Ji-Eun's subtle work as a colourist alternates tensions through contrasts and a shrewd leverage of values within the same range. She introduces a new light through more vibrant colours, taking over in a sophisticated balance of earthly tones and soft pastels. As warm colours prevail, darkness and melancholia infiltrate the compositions with bleaker shades of blue. The material itself of her colours brings about unique textures and luminosity, be it the matte density of acrylic paint, the soft or strong stroke of pencils, or the transparency of watercolour.

With *Unanswered Questions*, Yoon Ji-Eun reaches a new milestone in her search. Intimacy and experience are now expressed in an abstract, more universal language, made of snatches and snippets. The world is immense and deep, and the cosmos is at hand. A loud and invisible melody roams through her luminous landscapes of nameless remnants, all in a soft and powerful momentum.



Le temps balance | 2023
coloured pencils and watercolor on paper
27 x 27 cm

background

Yoon Ji-Eun was born in 1982 in South Korea. As she had been drawing since she was six years old, she opted without hesitation for a school that would prepare her for art studies.

A graduate of fine arts from the Hongik University in Seoul (2003) and from the ENSBA in Paris (Jean-Michel Alberola's workshop, 2005), she lives and works in France.

Her work got early recognition and was shortlisted for the **55^e Salon de Montrouge** (2009), for the **Jeune Création** event in Paris (2010), and for the **Prix de dessin Pierre David-Weill** (2008).

In 2012, the **Maison des Arts de Créteil** hosted a personal exhibition of her work: *Ce que je trouve (pas) chez elle* (What I [don't] find in her). Her collaboration with the Galerie Maria Lund started in 2012 with the collective exhibitions *Archipel* (Archipelago) and *12 x 12*, followed by the personal exhibition *Mirages* (2013) and her participation in *Here Comes the Sun* (2015).

In 2018, Yoon Ji-Eun took part in the exhibition *Artist and Location* at the **CICA Museum, Gyeonggi-do** (South Korea), and won the **Salon DDESSIN prize** the next year. A residency at the Villa N'dar at the **Institut français de Saint-Louis** (Senegal) and her 2020 personal exhibition *Voyage dans ma tête – Synchronicités* (Journey through my mind – Synchronicities) at the institute marked her change toward more colours.

Her last exhibition at the Galerie Maria Lund in 2021, *Voyager vers l'inaccompli* (Travel towards the unfinished), saw her blossoming into ethereal compositions on paper, with figurative fragments delicately placed on abstract backgrounds in watercolour.

In the spring of 2022, she participated in the exhibition *Nul homme que la lune n'ait vu* (No man that the moon has not seen) presented by the Galerie Maria Lund in collaboration with the Ancienne Nonciature in Brussels.

Yoon Ji-Eun's work has been regularly shown in fairs in France or abroad: **Art on Paper**, Brussels (2013), **YIA ART FAIR**, Paris (2015), **YIA ART FAIR**, Brussels (2016), **ASIA NOW**, Paris (2019), **DDESSIN**, Paris (2019 and 2020), **Luxembourg Art Week – The Fair** (2022), and **ENTER Art Fair**, Copenhagen (2023).

In 2023, five of Yoon Ji-Eun's works were integrated to the collection of the Musée Cernuschi in Paris.



La traversée | 2023
coloured pencils, acrylic and wood engraving
61 x 156 cm

Since 1999, the **GALERIE MARIA LUND** (Paris, le Marais) has been supporting forms of contemporary art that combine conceptual depth and visual relevance. This positioning involves the promotion of powerful works that suggest a meaning rather than imposing one, raising existential questions in a contemporary way. The work of the 23 represented artists encompasses a great diversity of media: installations, sculptures, paintings, drawings, photography, performance, videos, textiles and poetry. In addition to organising exhibitions in its gallery space and taking part in various French and international fairs (KIAF Seoul, Drawing Now, Asia Now, Art Paris, Enter Art Fair (Copenhagen), Luxembourg Art Week), the gallery also works to promote its artists' visibility outside its walls, by means of relationships with institutions and private establishments, playing an advisory role for commissioned works, publishing books and hosting events from other artistic fields (theatre, music, literature). The GALERIE MARIA LUND is a member of the French galleries' association, CPGA (Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art) – and of the pgmap – paris gallery map.