GuGu Kim

(b. 1970, Gwangju, South Korea)

GuGu Kim is a contemporary Korean artist known for his monumental monochromatic paintings created through a distinctive technique known as *Dry Finger Stamping*. Working without brushes, he uses his fingertips to apply charcoal, graphite, pastel and stone powder directly onto canvas, building images through thousands of individual impressions.
Rooted in the Korean tradition of *jiduhwa* (finger painting), his practice transforms this historical technique into a contemporary visual language. Through subtle variations of light and shadow, black and white, his works explore human emotion, spirituality and the relationship between tradition and modernity.
His subjects range from intimate portraits to monumental interpretations of Christian and Buddhist iconography. Combining remarkable technical precision with the physical repetition of individual gestures, GuGu Kim creates images that reveal their intricate structure upon closer observation.
Having studied art and design in Tokyo, he has exhibited internationally, including in Korea, Japan, China, India and Italy.

Solo Exhibitions
2025 Close Your Eyes, Open Your Heart, GG2 Gallery (Korea)
2025 Gugu Kim Sacred Painting Special Exhibition, GG2 Gallery (Korea)
2024 I See You, Gouter Gallery (Korea)
2024 Sacred Painting Invited Solo Exhibition, Prefer Gallery (Korea)
2024 Children's Blues, Seloarts (Korea)
2023 Sacred Painting Invited Special Exhibition, Art Bool Gallery (Korea)
2023 Olivia Park Gallery Invited Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2022 Tokyo Ginza G2 Gallery Solo Exhibition Tokyo (Japan)
2022 GuGu Art Museum Paju Branch Opening, Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2021 Tokyo Galerie Gallery Solo Exhibition Tokyo (Japan)
2021 GuGu Art Museum Jeju Opening, Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2021 Tokyo Ginza G2 Gallery Invited Solo Exhibition Tokyo (Japan)
2021 Busan LCT (X the Sky) Special Exhibition (Korea)
2020 Artscoco Gallery Invited Solo Exhibition (Luxembourg)
2019 Interactive Media Art Museum Special Exhibition (Korea)
2019 Venice Biennale Exclusive Building Solo Exhibition Preparing (Italy)
2018, 2019 H Gallery Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2018 GuGu Art Museum New York Opening, Solo Exhibition New York (U.S.A.)
2017 H Gallery Opening Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2017 MK Gallery Invited Solo Exhibition Shanghai (China)
2017 Marriott Hotel Special Exhibition (Korea)
2017 Yundang Art Center Sacred Painting Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2016, 2017 99 Art Museum Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2016 Downtown, Art District Los Angeles (U.S.A.)2016 Beverly Hills Solo Exhibition Los Angeles (U.S.A.)
2016 MaMa Gallery Los Angeles (U.S.A.)
2015 Multiplex Cultural Space 55 Opening Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2015 Gallery AIDC Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2015 Gallery 108 Finger Painting Special Exhibition (Korea)
2015 99 Art Museum Opening Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2014 Marriott Hotel Art Museum Dongdaemun, Opening Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2014 Gallery Change Up Finger Painting Exhibition (Korea)
2013 Woljeon Cultural Foundation Finger Painting Special Exhibition (Korea)
2013 Seo-hee Gallery Opening Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2013 Gallery We Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2013 Gallery Ri Seoul Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2013 Gallery Change Up Opening Solo Exhibition (Korea)

2013 Gallery ADIC Opening Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2012 KBS Broadcasting Station Finger Painting Special Exhibition (Korea)
2012 Insa Art Center Finger Painting Special Exhibition (Korea)
2012 Dongje Art Museum Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 Gallery 108 Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2010 Gallery 108 Opening Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2010 Seoul Art Museum Solo Exhibition (Korea)
2004–09 Shobido Museum Solo Exhibition Tokyo (Japan)
2000–03 Gallery Konisi Solo Exhibition Tokyo (Japan)
International Art Fair and Exhibition 500th
2025 Art Blooming from the Abandoned, GG2 Gallery (Korea)
2025 BAMA Busan International Art Fair (Korea)
2025 Gugu Girls Pop-up, GG2 Gallery (Korea)
2025 Art Karlsruhe, GmbH Messe Karlsruhe (Germany)
2025 Peace with You, GG2 Gallery (Korea)
2024 Busan International Buddhist Expo (Korea)
2024 Pink Art Fair, Shilla Hotel (Korea)
2024 Borderless, Mongol Art Gallery (Mongolia)
2023 Nonylism, Rihol Art Gallery (Korea)
2023 Gugu Girls Fashion Show (Korea)
2023 Borderless, Gyeongin Museum of Art (Korea)
2022 ART MIAMI(CONTEXT), Miami Beach (U.S.A.)
2022 GuGu Girls Fashion Show Haeundae (Korea)
2021 LCT Tower Art Project (Korea)
2021 Kura Biennale Project Saimata (Japan)
2019 Interactive Media Art Special Exhibition, Interactive Media Art Museum (Korea)
2019 Art Karlsruhe (Germany)
2019 Tokyo Ueno National Art Museum (Japan)
2018 Art Karlsruhe (Germany)
2018 Tokyo Ueno National Art Museum (Japan)
2017 Michelangelo Sistine Collabo Exhibition, Shanghai (China)
2017 Expo Shopping Mall Collabo Exhibition, Shanghai (China)2016 KIAF (Korea)
2016 Y Gallery Solo Exhibition, Y Gallery (Korea)
2016 MISKORIA Gallery Opening Exhibition, MISKORIA Gallery, Shanghai (China)
2016 99 Art Museum Finger Painting Special Exhibition, 99 Art Museum (Korea)
2016 Finger Painting Special Exhibition, Downtown Mama Gallery, Los Angeles (U.S.A.)
2016 Finger Painting Special Exhibition, Beverly Hills Centum, Los Angeles (U.S.A.)
2016 Finger Painting Special Exhibition, Downtown Art District, Los Angeles (U.S.A.)
2016 Korea-Japan Embassy Special Exhibition, Japanese Embassy (Korea)
2016 Scope Art Fair, New York (U.S.A.)
2016 Art New York, New York (U.S.A.)
2016 Art Miami, Miami (U.S.A.)
2016 State Fair — Michelangelo & Gugu Kim, Texas (U.S.A.)
2015 99 Art Museum Korea-Japan Special Exhibition, 99 Art Museum (Korea)
2015 Munhwa Jaedan 55 Opening Exhibition, Munhwa Jaedan 55 (Korea)
2015 Affordable Art Fair, Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP) (Korea)
2015 99 Art Museum Opening Exhibition (Finger Painting), 99 Art Museum (Korea)
2015 Scope Art Fair Basel (Switzerland)
2015 PHOTOFEVER Art Fair Paris (France)
2015 Group Exhibition, Ginza Gallery G2 (Japan)
2014 Korea-Japan Special Exhibition (Korea-Japan Art Association), NHK Broadcasting Station, Tokyo
(Japan)
2014 Korean Wave Star Special Exhibition (Korea)
2014 Art MIAF (Korea)
2014 Art Expo, New York (U.S.A.)
2014 PHOTOFEVER Art Fair, Paris (France)
2014 Solo Project Art Fair, Basel (Switzerland)
2014 Group Exhibition, Ginza Gallery G2 (Japan)
2013 Seoul Open Art Fair, Seoul (Korea)

2013 Japanese Embassy Special Exhibition, Japanese Embassy (Korea)
2013 Gallery 99 Korea-Japan Exhibition, Gallery 99 (Korea)
2013 Affordable Art Fair, Roma (Italy)
2013 Miami Art Fair Reddot, Miami (U.S.A.)
2013 Gallery Space Womb Exhibition, New York (U.S.A.)
2013 Group Exhibition, Ginza Gallery G2 (Japan)
2013 Gallery Seo Exhibition, Ginza (Japan)
2012 Art Daegu, Daegu (Korea)
2012 Fountain Art Fair, New York (U.S.A.)
2012 SWAB Art Fair, Barcelona (Spain)
2012 Hong Kong Contemporary Art Fair (Hong Kong)
2012 Chennai India Biennale, Chennai (India)
2011 Daegu Cultural Center Special Exhibition, Daegu Cultural Center (Korea)
2011 Art Gwangju, Gwangju (Korea)
2011 Verge Art Brooklyn, New York (U.S.A.)
2010 Seoul Art Museum Special Exhibition, Seoul Art Museum (Korea)
2010 Ansan International Art Fair, Ansan (Korea)
2010 Art KASF (Korea)2010 Art Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju (Korea)
2010 Gwangju Biennale Fair, Gwangju (Korea)

Awards

2024 Minister of Health and Welfare Award — Leadership Prize
2024 UN Peace Award — Creator Prize
2024 Korea National Grand Award — Brand Award
2024 Best Journalist ESG Social Contribution Commendation
2023 Korea Contribution Grand Award — Culture Award
2023 Hyundongja Angyeon Merit Commendation
2022 Korea Culture Promotion Grand Award
2019 Tokyo Ueno National Museum Competition — Excellence Award (Japan)
2018 The Presidential Award for the People's Republic of Korea
2018 Asia Contemporary Art Awards (Japan)
2014 Korea Social Contribution Award
2014 Golden Glove Global Korean Honoree Award
2013 Golden Glove Korea's Creative Art
2003 Asia Contemporary Art Award
2000 The Millennium Collection, etc.

Collections
Harvard Art Museum, Yale University Art Museum, China Longchang Group, LA MAMA Gallery, Seocho
Sarang Church, etc.