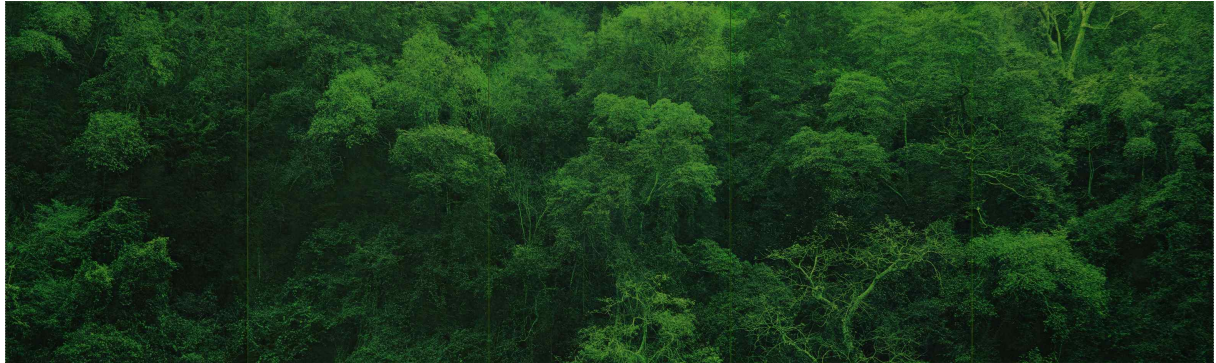


Bongsang Yoo



Bongsang Yoo creates dreamlike landscapes using an unexpected medium: nails. His process begins with a panel so heavy it cannot be lifted by hand, it must be hoisted into place by machine. Onto this massive surface, he uses an air tacker to insert 15mm headless pin nails, each driven only halfway in, leaving 7mm protruding. What results is a world of light shaped by the shadow of reality, seven millimeters of darkness, created by something as tangible and industrial as a nail.

Yoo's works often depict deep, shadowy forests. But within this darkness, a soft, subtle light emerges; quiet, almost hidden, yet resonating with an inner strength. The "scenes of light" he creates are formed by more than 300,000 precisely aligned pin nails. The dense 7mm shadows cast by these nails create shimmering images that subtly shift with the viewer's gaze and emotional state.

The world Bongsang Yoo creates that ethereal, suspended somewhere between hope and despair, never imposes meaning on the viewer. Instead, it invites quiet contemplation. Whatever one encounters within these works is entirely left to the viewer, reflecting the artist's deeply introspective approach. There is a certain melancholy in this distance, in the way Yoo refuses to dictate meaning that even though the sheer physical labor and meticulous process behind his pieces would seem to warrant a declaration, a message. But Yoo remains silent, choosing instead to pursue quiet innovation.

As one international critic once remarked, "Bongsang Yoo has hung light." And indeed, the world of light he has suspended from cold steel nails may feel uncertain, even fragile—but it gently illuminates our path. In his luminous landscapes, carved from deep shadow, there is sometimes solace, sometimes courage, and sometimes... a tear.

Bongsang Yoo (b.1960, Seoul, Korea)

■ **Educations**

1987 MFA Fine Arts, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

1983 BFA Fine Arts, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

■ **Selected Solo Exhibition**

2025 Gallery BUNDO, Daegu, Korea

2022 Gallery BK, Seoul, Korea

2021 Opera Gallery, Seoul, Korea

2017 MUDIA Foundation, Milano, Italy

Gallery PIU, Jeonju, Korea

2015 Gallery D, Sockcho, Korea

2014 Gallery Imazoo, Seoul, Korea

2013 Gallery Bundo, Daegu, Korea

2009 Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea

Youngeun Museum of ContemporaryArt, Gyeonggi, Korea

2008 POSCO Art Museum, Seoul, Korea

2007 Gallery Bundo, Daegu, Korea

2004 Gallery IHN, Seoul, Korea

2002 Gallery Johyun, Busan, Korea

2001 Gallery Seonmi, Seoul, Korea

2000 Korean Cultural Center, Paris, France

1997 Ci-Gong Gallery, Daegu, Korea

1995 Gallery Seonmi, Seoul, Korea

1993 ARTSENAL, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France

1993 Espace Lucernaire, Paris, France

1989 Kwan-Hoon Art Center, Seoul, Korea

■ **Selected Group Exhibition**

2026 KIAF Seoul, Seoul, Korea

2025 KIAF Seoul, Seoul, Korea

Korean Galleries Art Fair, Seoul, Korea

2024 Art Busan, Busan, Korea

2023 Inner Light, DNJ ArtCenter, Seoul, Korea

Trilogy, Gallery 021, Dae-gu, Korea

The Hidden Masterpiece part2, Gallery BK, Seoul, Korea

2022 Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Korea-China Diplomatic Relations-Empathy, Korean Cultural Center in China, Beijing, China

Too Hot, Too Cold, POSCO, Pohang, Korea

Korean Art, Cultivating the Unexpected, Opera Gallery, London, UK

Hommage Jean François Millet, Hommage Park son keun, Park Son Keun Museum, Yanggu, Korea

2019 YEOSU International Art Festival, Yeosu, Korea

ASIAN ART, Opera Gallery, New York, USA

KOREAN ART, a contemporary take on texture, Opera Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2017 KOREA NOW" Opera Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

LEE & BAE

- Transcend time" Gallery GRIMSON, Seoul, Korea
3Artists KWON, YOO, JEONG" KWONJINKYU Museum, Chuncheon, Korea
Trilogy" Gallery 021, Dae-gu, Korea
- 2016 Lobbyist Show" KMCA, Seoul, Korea
Certain Picture Plane" ICAM, Yongin, Korea
atomic number 26. Fe" POSCO Gallery, Pohang, Korea
The Great Labour" SOMA Museum, Seoul, Korea
- 2015 YOO BongSang- GUK DaeHo 2 persons Exhibition, Gallery Song-A Dang, Seoul, Korea
- 2014 Re-Imagination" Ilwoo Space, Seoul
- 2013 Open Mind 2, KOTRA, Seoul, Korea
A Scene from a Memory, Art Space BEN, Seoul, Korea
Open Mind, KOTRA, Seoul, Korea
- 2012 8, Gallery Mesh, Seoul, Korea
Unlimited, Unlimited - An Exhibition of 14 Korean Artist, Kwai Fung Hin Art Gallery, HONG KONG
- 2011 Phyomai, Bridge Gallery, Seoul, Korea
Beyond the Blue, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
- 2010 Alchemy of Steel, POMA, Pohang, Korea
POSCO Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
Art Docking Spot, WooMyoung Art Museum, Hanam, Korea
At the Junction Light and Color, Interalia, Seoul, Korea
Contemporary Korean Artists" Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, Haverford, USA
Space of 4 Cogitations- Nearby Sceneries, Shin Museum of Art, Chung-ju, Korea
Matching Point, Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwang-ju, Korea
- 2009 Hands of Alchemy, Interalia, Seoul, Korea
The Great Hands, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
- 2006 Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Cheongju, Korea
- 2005 The Seoul Art Exhibition" Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
SONAMOU Paris-Seoul, Korea Foundation, Seoul, Korea
- 1998 souffle de vie" Kremlin- Bicêtre Hospital, Kremlin-Bicêtre, France
- 1994 Rookies of ARTSNAL, Gallery ARTBEAM, Seoul, Korea
Dae-gu Workshop, Gallery Shilla & Ci-Gong, Dae-gu, Korea
Salon de Montrouge, Montrouge, France
Inaugural Exhibition of ARTSENAL Paris, ARTSENAL Paris, Issy-les-mlx, France
Salon d'art contemporain Bagneux, Bagneux, France
- 1993 Salon de la jeune peinture, Grand Palais, Paris, France

■ Grant

- 2001 ThePollock-Krasner Foundation Grant