

Sungpil Chae



For artist Sungpil Chae, nature has always been a subject of longing and aspiration. He seeks to capture the primordial world—shaped, as ancient Eastern philosophy suggests, through the harmony of yin and yang and the dynamic interplay of the five elements. This profound and mysterious universe becomes manifest on his canvas. Chae, who believes that true beauty lies in what is most essential, expresses the origin of nature through the forms of earth and water. Known as the "Artist of Earth," he begins by delicately applying a thin layer of natural pearl pigment to the canvas. He then covers the surface with paints he creates himself, using a mixture of dyes, soil, ink, and water. Rather than crafting images through controlled, artificial techniques, he allows the traces left by earth and water to create organic, spontaneous forms. As art critic Anne Kerdraon observes, these forms "connect with the imagery of nature within our consciousness—becoming trees, fields, rippling seas, and lands stirred by the wind." To Chae, earth is more than a material—it is a site of history, the foundation of human existence, and a symbol of both cultural identity and universal continuity. It becomes both his model and his medium. Through this material, he paints spaces of earth—spaces that evoke a return to nature, or perhaps a nostalgic journey home. His process begins with a physical journey—an actual return to the land—during which he collects earth from different places. This gathered soil becomes not only the literal material of his work but also a sentimental motif and a symbolic *matière* (material). In this way, his paintings represent a unity of theme, substance, and image—all converging in the single, resonant concept of "earth." Another essential material in Chae's practice is water. Earth becomes pigment through its interaction with water, and it is with water that the painting takes form. Even when the water has fully evaporated, it leaves behind marks—traces of its presence. The final works, shaped by these elemental forces, embody not only images of nature but the very essence of primordial space.

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Sungpil Chae (b.1972, Jindo, Korea)

■ Educations

- 2005 MFA Plastic Arts, Université Rennes2, Rennes, France
- 2003 MFA Oriental Paintings, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea
- 1998 BFA Oriental Paintings, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

■ Selected Solo Exhibition

- 2025 Gallery Date, Busan, Korea
- 2024 Gallery Artspace Josun, Seoul, Korea
- 2023 Gallery Mariane Ibrahim, Paris, France
Gallery Dumonteil, Shanghai, China
- 2022 Gallery Gana Art, Seoul, Korea
- 2021 Gallery Redzone Art, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2020 Gallery Artskoco, Luxembourg
- 2018 Gallery Jean Brolly, Paris, France
Gallery Grimson, Seoul, Korea
- 2017 Gallery Opera, NY, USA
Gallery Opera, Seoul, Korea
- 2015 Gallery Red Zone Art, Geneva, Swiss
Gallery Opera, Seoul, Korea
Gallery CC, Seoul, Korea
Gallery Baudoin Lebon, Paris, France
- 2014 Gallery Shchukin, Paris, France
Caron Bedout, Villeneuve-sur-Yonne, France
- 2011 Young-Eun, Museum, Gwangju, Korea
- 2010 Gallery Christine Park, Paris, France
Gallery 89, Paris, France
- 2009 Gallery Sejul, Seoul, Korea
- 2008 Gallery AROA, Paris, France
- 2007 Gallery Brasilia, Paris, France
Gallery Saphir, Chevereuse, France

■ Selected Group Exhibition

- 2025 Art Miami, Miami, US
Art Central Solo show, HongKong
Bama, Busan, Korea
Art Paris. Paris, France
Galleries Art fair, Seoul, Korea
Art Chosun, Seoul, Korea
- 2024 West Bund, Shanghai, China
Art Taipei, Taipei
Humanity & Nature, UNESCO Paris, France
Art Busan, Busan, Korea
Galleries Art fair, Seoul, Korea
Art Gwangju Solo Show, Gwangju, Korea

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- Kiaf &Freize Solo Show, Seoul, Korea
- Floating Gesture, Duo Show, Gallery Joeun, Seoul, Korea
- Flex Modern, Gyeongjae Jungseon Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
- 2023 Paran, Gallery Joeun, Seoul, Korea
- Art Busan, Busan, Korea
- Galleries Art fair, Seoul, Korea
- Biennale d'Art, Saint-Montde, France
- Bama, Busan, Korea
- 'Arioso', Gallery M9, Seoul, Korea
- Art Central, HongKong
- 'white rainbow', Galley Josun, Aif, Hory, Seoul, Korea
- 2022 Galleries Art Fair, Seoul, Korea
- Art and Antik, Bodapest, Hungary
- Gallery Dumonteuil, Paris, France
- Galleries Art fair, Seoul, Korea
- Art Paris, Paris, France
- BAD Art Fair, Bordeaux, France
- Art Miami Art Fair, Miami, USA
- The Artplace HMC 2022, Seoul, Korea
- Asia Now, Paris, France
- Art Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 Artup, Lille, France
- Gallery Artismagna, Lyon, France
- Galleries Art Fair, Seoul. Korea
- Art and Antik, Bodapest, Hungary
- Art Paris, Paris, France
- Galleries Art fair, Seoul, Korea
- Luxembourg Art week, Luxembourg
- Daegu Art fair, Daegu, Korea
- Miami Context Art Fair, Miami, USA
- Sonamou, Centre Culturel Coreen, Paris, France
- 2020 KIAF, Seoul, Korea
- Galleries Art Fair. Seoul. Korea
- Gallery Woolbridge, Biella, Italy
- 2019 Art Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
- BRAFA, Brussels, Belgium
- Art Paris, Paris, France
- Art Central, HongKong, China
- 2018 Art Central, HongKong, China
- Art Paris, Paris, France
- Art Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 BRAFA, Brussels, Belgium
- Plein et Vide, Kyobo Art space, Seoul, Korea
- 2016 Art Paris, Paris, France
- Art Busan, Busan, Korea
- Reminiscing on past time, YoungEun Museum, Kwangju, Korea
- KIAF, Seoul, Korea

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CHAE Sung-Pil & Lee JaeSam, Gallery Grimson, Seoul, Korea

2015 Art Paris, Paris, France

Art15 London, London, UK

Art Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey

Art Busan, Busan, Korea

KIAF, Seoul, Korea

Art Elysee, Paris, France

SEOUL PARIS SEOUL, Cernuschi Museum, Paris, France

SAUNAMU, Cite international des Arts, Paris, France

2014 London Art fair, London, UK

Art Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany

Art Paris, Paris, France

Busan Art Show, Busan, Korea

Gallery Superior, Seoul, Korea

2013 Gallery Opera, Singapore, Dubai, Hongkong and Seoul

Gallery Opera, Paris, London, Geneva and Monaco

Gallery 89, Paris, France

Art Paris, Paris, France

KIAF(Korea International Art Fair), Seoul, Korea

DeaGu Art fair, DaeGu, Korea

2012 Korea tomorrow, Hangaram Museum(Seoul Art Center), Seoul, Korea

Gallery Opera Seoul, Seoul, Korea

Sonamu, Ara gallery, Seoul, Korea

Sonamu, 89 Gallery, Paris, France

DeaGu Art fair, DaeGu, Korea

Doors Hotel Art Fair, Seoul, Korea

Monochrom in Korea, Gallery Dorothea van der Koelen, Mainz, Germany

The rite of spring, Gallery Maubert, Paris, France

2011 KIAF(Korea International Art Fair), Seoul, Korea

Gallery Maubert, Paris, France

Gallery Aroa, Paris, France

2010 Miami Scope, Miami, USA

KIAF, Seoul, Korea

Korea Gallery Exhibition, Daegu, Korea.

2009 CIGE(China International Gallery Exhibition), Beijing, China

Chicago Art Fair, Chicago, USA

KIAF, Seoul, Korea

Art Gwangju, Gwangju, Korea

2008 Chicago Art Fair, Chicago, USA

KIAF, Seoul, Korea

Art Shanghai, Shanghai, China

Daegu Art Fair, Daegu, Korea.

2005 – 2006 International Art Fair Mac2000, Paris, France

■ Public Collections

National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea

Seoul Museum of Art, Korea

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Gwangju Museum of Art, Korea

YoungEun Museum, Korea

Government Complex Sejong, Korea

Hôtel de Ville de Paris, France

Cernischi Museum, France

Sinhan Bank, Korea

BNP Bank, France

Majestic Hotel, France

Citroen, France

KaKaoDaum, Korea

Fnac, France

SK group, Korea