

Lee Kwang-Ho

Touch



Cactus No.47, 2010

Oil on canvas

250 x 300 cm

©Lee Kwang-Ho, Courtesy Kukje Gallery

○ **Exhibition Information**

Featured Artist: Lee Kwang-Ho (1967-)

Exhibition Title: Touch

Duration: April 15 (Th.) to May 16 (Sun.)

Place: Kukje Gallery (K1), Floors 1 and 2 (Tel. 735-8449)

Times Open: Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm, Sunday: 10am-5pm

KUKJE GALLERY

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○ **Exhibition Introduction**

Kukje Gallery is pleased to present *Touch*, Lee Kwang-Ho's first solo exhibition at this venue. As one of Korea's most prominent realist artists, Lee displays his technical and pictorial mastery with the ability to meticulously combine elements of the real and the abstract.

Lee's early works were inspired by Pop Art, influenced by the Renaissance perspective, and Surrealism, and have now developed into his own unique and personal interpretation of modern realism. A thorough investigation of his works provides the viewer an opportunity to fully appreciate the depth and versatility of Lee's artistry and vision.

Lee Kwang-Ho's most recent works on view can be seen as an extension of his previous projects such as *Inter-View*, in which Lee attempted to reproduce the memories of one hundred models that the artist personally knew by conducting extensive interviews with each of them.

In creating the new *Cactus* and *Landscape* series, Lee has experimented with various techniques such as scratching, rubbing of the paintbrush, and tapping on the canvas whilst enlarging the subject to its extreme to make the cactus seem like a type of abstraction. As a result, the small cacti can appear animal-like, rouse a unique phallic aura, and be reminiscent of a monument or even a model from the *Inter-View* series.

In contrast, the *Landscape* series deals with empty spaces found in nature. Lee presents us with familiar open spaces consisting of woods and forests, skies and movement of the wind. The landscapes are not particularly beautiful or nostalgic but upon closer observation, the depicted subjects actually disappear, revealing only a layer of paint comprised of countless, precise brushstrokes, and markings of a meticulous knife work. In the end, the abstract surface of the *Landscape* series is actually quite similar to that of the *Cactus* paintings. The artist has attempted to create not only a realistic transfer of the subject onto the canvas but to investigate the fundamental question of painting – the act of painting itself.

This solo exhibition has two years in its making and will run at Kukje Gallery from April 15 to May 16.

○ **Artist Introduction**

Lee Kwang-Ho's early work sought to give glimpses into the trivialities of everyday experiences in order to truthfully reflect one's "inner landscape." As a painter, Lee emphasizes the meanings attached to objects in his vision; thus, he photographs an object, and then sketches it. According to Lee, there are psychological truths underlying the images of everyday life, and it is his objective to reveal and dramatize these truths.

Lee Kwang-Ho (1967~) received Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Fine Arts from Seoul National University, and has, for the past 15 years, exhibited his works in both solo and group exhibitions. In 2006, Lee was selected as a Changdong Residency Artist, whereupon he successfully embarked on his Inter-View series, placing himself among Korea's well-known realists.

Lee Kwang-Ho's works are currently in the collections of the nation's many prestigious art institutions, including the National Museum of Contemporary Art, the Seoul Museum of Art, and the Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art.

○ Work Information

Use of images must clearly credit the artist and other relevant parties.



Cactus No.30
2008
Oil on canvas
259.1 x 181.8 cm



Cactus No.40
2009
Oil on canvas
193.9 x 130.3 cm

○ **Work Information**

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Kanghwado
2010
Oil on canvas
130.3 x 162.1 cm



Daekwanryung
2009
Oil on canvas
72 x 130 cm