



UnKyung Hur & Shinji Ogawa: In The Water

Vernissage: December 13th, 6-9pm

Exhibition dates: December 13th 2014 – January 31st 2015

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

XVA Gallery is pleased to announce the joint exhibition of Korean artist UnKyung Hur and Japanese artist Shinji Ogawa entitled *In The Water*. Both artists explore ideas of humanity, life, creation; their search for answers is shared with a wider audience through the work that they produce. Both utilize traditional techniques that require skill and patience, and although symmetry plays an important role in each artist's work, the materials that are utilised are vastly different and the finished products are complementary in their contrasting detail.

Hur's work is an exploration of the relationship between vitality and energy and is expressed through forms of geometrical structure that are created using traditional Korean lacquer inlaid with mother of pearl. Hur explores her views of the world expressed through themes such as creation and extinction, time and existence.

The main theme explored by Shinji Ogawa is 'How the world is recognised' by human beings. Ogawa's artworks allow him to consider how time and space which we feel as humans are constructed and how they are related to our consciousness.

This is the first time either artist will exhibit in the UAE.

About the Artists:

UnKyung Hur

UnKyung Hur was born in Seoul in 1964. After she graduated from the Department of Painting in Seoul National University, she attained her Bachelor and Masters Degrees from The Art Center in Pasadena, California in The United States. With her first solo exhibition *After Myth* held in Pasadena in 1992 she presented *After Myth 2*, a continued series, in Los Angeles in 1994, as well as three solo exhibitions that were held in South Korea. She has also participated in many group exhibitions that were held in the United States, South Korea, Germany and China. Late in 2013 Unkyung explored the relationship between vitality and energy through forms of geometrical structures in *Under Cosmos* at the Leeahn Gallery, Seoul. She also showed at Art Basel Hong Kong in 2014.

Shinji Ogawa

Shinji Ogawa was born in 1959 in Yamaguchi, Japan. Ogawa studied at Mie University, where he received a diploma in 1983 from The Art Department, Faculty of Education. Now living and working in Nagoya Ogawa has exhibited widely in solo exhibitions in Japan and group shows in Japan and Europe. His work is in the collections of Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, Poland, Takamatsu City Museum of Art, Kagawa, Tokyo Station Gallery, Tokyo, Bunkier Sztuki, Krakow, Poland, Okazaki Mindscape Museum, Aichi, The National Museum Art, Osaka, The Museum Modern Art, Shiga and Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Tokai City.

About the XVA Gallery:

Established in 2003, XVA is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East that specializes in contemporary art from the Arab world, Iran and the Subcontinent. Exhibitions focus on works by the regions foremost artists as well as those emerging onto the scene. The gallery's artists express their different cultural identities and perspectives while challenging the viewer to drop prejudices and borders. XVA Gallery exhibits both locally and internationally; collaborating with galleries and participating in international art fairs, such as Art Basel Hong Kong, SH Contemporary, Singapore Art Fair and Abu Dhabi Art in 2014, in order to further expose Middle Eastern contemporary art.

XVA Gallery and XVA Art Hotel are located in Dubai's heritage district, now called Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood. XVA founded and organized the Bastakiya Art Fair from 2007- 2010 as part of its commitment to raising the profile of contemporary art practice in Dubai. For three years XVA was located in DIFC, and has now expanded its premises in Al Fahidi.

XVA Gallery Contact

Eleanor Smith, XVA Gallery Manager

E: ellie@xvagallery.com

E: xva@xvagallery.com

M: +97150 1533813