

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kang Contemporary is proud to present, “Ik-Joong Kang: Bamboo/Wind.” This exhibition showcases the newest works of Ik-Joong Kang, an internationally acclaimed, multi-disciplined contemporary artist.

Kang’s work explores Korea’s historic past juxtaposed with the contradictions and challenges facing modern day Korean society. Kang has taken elements from contemporary popular culture and fused them with classical Korean iconography to create a strikingly dynamic and amusing visual aesthetic using modern art making techniques.



Ik Joong Kang  
*Blue Chrysanthemum Moon Jar*  
2011, Mixed Media on Wood  
47 x 47 in. (119.4 x 119.4 cm.)

*Blue Chrysanthemum Moon Jar* is the embodiment of the artist’s vision for a united Korean peninsula, a theme that Kang has been exploring since the beginning of his artistic career. Unique to Korea and mainly produced during the 17th and 18th century, the undecorated large white moon jars were used as storage jars for wine and food in the Royal Court. Moon Jars symbolize Neo-Confucian ideals of frugality, purity, and austerity, which were principles of scholar-gentlemen and aristocrats, the ruling class of the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). The Chrysanthemum is a Confucian symbol of courage and patience – a flower defiantly blooms in full glory amidst the cold winds and early snows of Korean winters. Kang’s spontaneous finger paintings of these scholar-gentlemen symbols adorn the surface of the white moon jars.

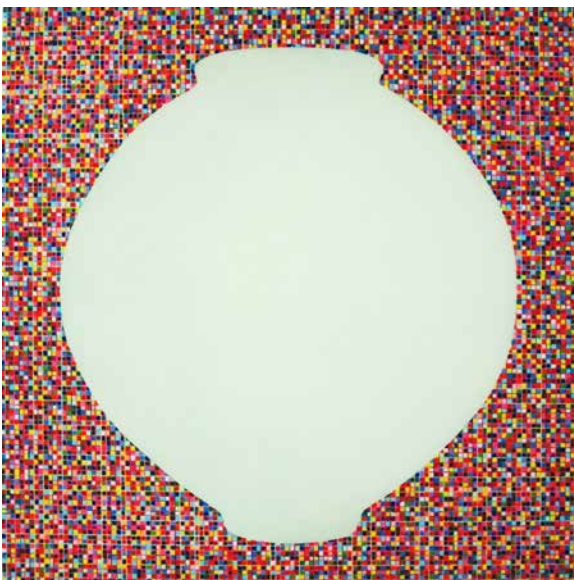


Ik Joong Kang  
***Bamboo (Spring)***  
2013  
Mixed Media on Wood  
each 48.5 x 48.5 in. (123.2 x 123.2 cm.)

Bamboo, also a Confucian symbol, is revered for its uprightness and strength. It was used as a symbol of perseverance and resilience.

Ik Joong Kang  
***Buncheong Jar***  
2013, Mixed Media on Wood  
47 x 47 in (119.4 x 119.4 cm)

Buncheong ware is a form of traditional Korean stoneware with a bluish-green glaze. Actively produced in early 15th century and onwards, these pots were coated with white slip and spontaneously created designs, and were mainly made for everyday use. *Buncheong Jar* highlights the state of war that currently exists between South and North Korea. Kang's Buncheong is an icon of Korea's classical past, a unified nation interrupted by fighter jets depicted in the negative space that bisects the whole.



Ik Joong Kang  
***Moon Jar with Colored Dots***  
2013, Mixed Media on Wood  
47 x 47 in (119.4 x 119.4 cm)

Kang recalls **Nam June Paik** once telling him that "the moon was the earliest TV. It was the place of imagination and a playground." For Kang, the Moon Jar is the place where people's dreams are stored.