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Contact: Locks Gallery  
T 215-629-1000/F 215-629-3868  
info@locksgallery.com

## Yeesoookyung

### *The Meaning of Time*

February 7, 2014 - March 27, 2014

Artist reception:

Friday, February 28, 2014, 5:30–7:30 pm

Gallery hours:

Tue–Sat: 10 am–6 pm



*Translated Vase (2013\_TVW2)*, 2013 ceramics shards, epoxy, 24karat gold, 37.5 x 35.5 x 51"

Locks Gallery is pleased to present *The Meaning of Time*, the first solo exhibition in the United States by the Korean artist Yeesoookyung, on view February 7 through March 27, 2014. This exhibition is intended to be a contemporary perspective in dialogue with the nationally touring exhibition of Korean Joseon Dynasty artifacts that will be on view at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on March 2, 2014.

The opening reception will be held on Friday, February 7 from 5:30-7:30pm with a special artist's reception on Friday, February 28 from 5:30-7:30pm. An illustrated catalog of the works will accompany the exhibition with an essay by writer Robert C Morgan.

In this exhibition, Yee revisits traditional Korean arts in work featuring porcelain and gold sculptures, silk scroll paintings, and a video dance performance. This work reflects both a wisdom from decades of conceptual art practice and a rigorous formal training in her elegant craftsmanship. Identifying herself as a "local artist," Yee's work reflects poetically on specific Korean cultural traditions and histories. But in the context of globalization, the work poignantly reflects how traditions taken from the past are re-imagined and re-contextualized.

Known internationally for her *Translated Vase* series, Yee collects porcelain shards from

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Korean ceramists who make reproductions of Joseon Dynasty white porcelain and Goryeo Dynasty celadon masterworks. By making intuitive voluptuous forms out of their “trash”, Yee employs the traditional method of repairing ceramics with gold. Meanwhile the works play with language as gold and crack (both “geum”) are homonyms in Korean.

Also on view are recent silk scroll paintings from the series *Flame Variation*. Echoing the graphic iconographic style of the wall paintings of the Goguryeo Tombs with the spatial organization of symmetrical Buddhist paintings, Yee combines traditional religious imagery with that of fairy tales, cartoons, myths, and allegories. From a distance the scrolls appear to be traditional artifacts, but upon further inspection they are captivating in their non-linear narratives and distinctly contemporary graphic content.

Yeesoookyung’s video dance work, *Twin Dance*, is an extended meditation on Kyo Bang Choom, a traditional Korean dance performed by women of the Joseon Dynasty. The work explores a relationship with symmetry akin to the silk scroll paintings. The video completes this constellation of works that represent her recent conceptual investigations into Korean cultural traditions with distinctly contemporary approaches.

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Yeesoookyung (b. 1963) is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in Seoul, Korea. She received both her undergraduate degree and MFA in painting from the National University in Seoul. The artist has completed residencies at Villa Arson, Apex Art, and the Bronx Museum. Yee’s work has been shown internationally at the 6th Gwanju Biennale (2006), ARCO (2007), the 5th Liverpool Biennial (2008) the Vancouver Biennale (2009), the Buson Biennale (2010), and the 18th Biennale of Sydney (2012). She has been included in notable recent exhibitions including “Women In-Between: Asian Women Artists 1984-2012” at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, the 2012 Korea Art Prize exhibition at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul, *Korean Eye 2012* at Saatchi Gallery in London, and *The Collectors Show: WEight of History* at the Singapore Art Museum in 2012. Her works can be found in the collections of the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Korea, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, IFEMA ARCO Collection in Madrid, Echigo-Tsumari City Collection Japan, Saatchi Collection in London, the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas, among others.

Locks Gallery is located at 600 Washington Square South in Philadelphia, PA. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For additional information, please contact Locks Gallery at 215.629.1000 voice, 215.629.3868 fax, or [info@locksgallery.com](mailto:info@locksgallery.com).

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