

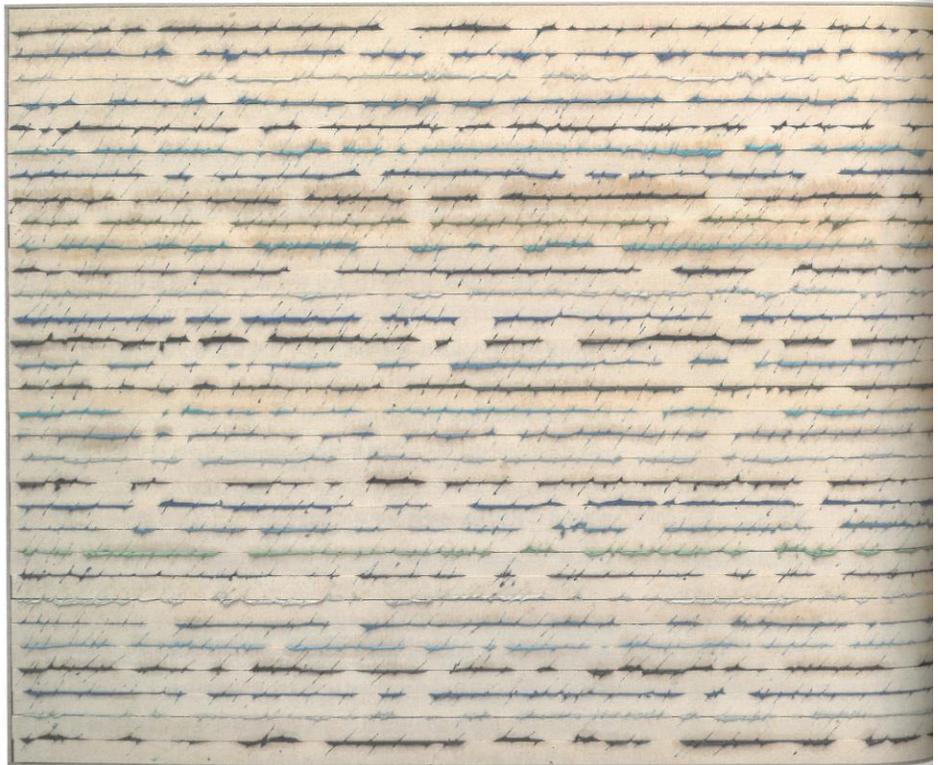
Evolving and Expanding Conjunction Ha Chong-Hyun

March 2022 | By Helena

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GALLERY

Evolving and Expanding Conjunction Ha Chong-Hyun



하중현(b.1935), 'Post-Conjunction 11-3', 2011, Mixed Media, 120x180cm, Courtesy of the Artist and Kukje Gallery
사진: 안천호 이미지 제공: 국제갤러리

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The exhibition encompasses Ha Chong-Hyun's works from the 1990s to the present, tracing his relentlessly evolving and expanding practice from his original 'Conjunction' series in muted tones to multicolored 'Conjunction' paintings, and finally, to the new 'Post-Conjunction' series, which are unveiled in the country for the first time.

editor HELENA

A solo exhibition of Ha Chong-Hyun, one of Korea's most celebrated artists and a leading figure of the Dansaekhwa movement, is on view at Kukje Gallery from February 15 through March 13, 2022, across all three of the gallery's spaces (K1, K2, K3) in Seoul. Being the largest exhibition of his work, this is the artist's third solo show at Kukje Gallery following his previous shows in 2019 and 2015. Best known for his experimentation with oil paints to seek answers to a burning question: "What is painting?", Ha Chong-Hyun showcases the outcomes of his ongoing study of colors and materials.

The artist began his 'Conjunction' series in the 1970s, developing it as his signature style over the ensuing decades. He invented a labor-intensive and innovative technique known as "bae-ap-bub", which involves applying thick oil paint to the back of the burlap canvas and pushing it through the cloth's coarse weave to the front so that the paint seeps out to the surface, creating a unique texture. With this back-pressure technique, the artist experimented with vibrant colors in his "Conjunction" series. The multicolored "Conjunction" series highlight the richness of his palette with the brushstrokes applied on the back of the canvas and colorful gradations, as seen in 'Conjunction 21-38' (2021). For this work that integrates blue and white hues, he used the "bae-ap-bub" technique with white paint across the surface, which was undercoated in black, before drawing vertical lines on it. As a final touch, the artist added blue paint to create a variation of the 'Conjunction' series.



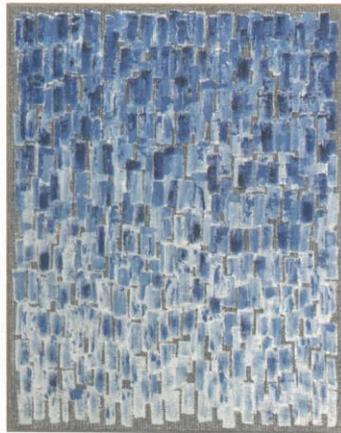
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True to his lifelong commitment to exploring the endless possibilities of painting, Ha Chong-Hyun is still engaged in a war against oil paints and burlap canvas. As a pioneer of Korean modernism, he continues to create new works driven by his passion for ceaseless exploration and experimentation with materials to expand the boundaries of painting. By constructing a unique artistic language through two-dimensional works imbued with materiality and energy, the artist cultivates an expanding spectrum of his practice to break away from Western painting techniques. This solo exhibition of Ha Chong-Hyun not only embraces his material exploration that has defined his artistic career with his labor-intensive working process, but also provides an opportunity to promote discourse on the essence of painting. The conjunction of his 'Conjunction' and 'Post-Conjunction' series, both of which are expanding the definition of painting, reflects the artist's extraordinary journey to finding originality in Korean modern art. N

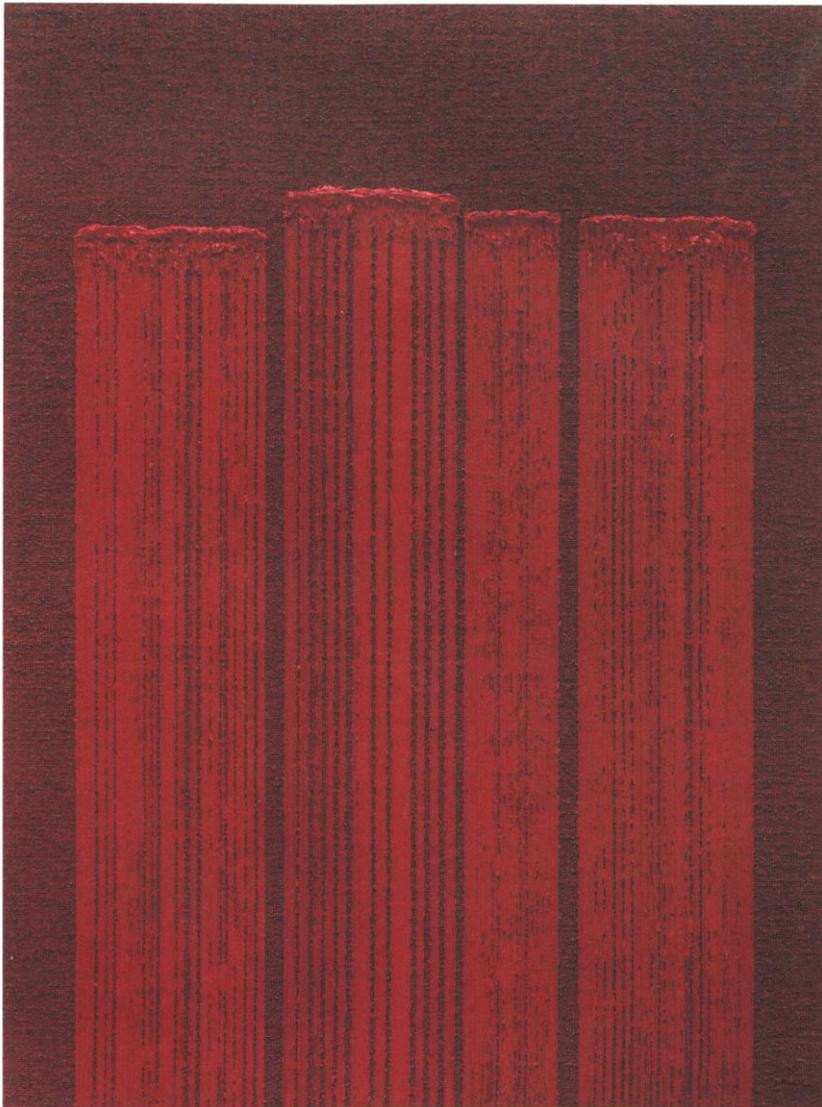


하중현 (b.1935),
 'Conjunction 21-38',
 2021,
 Oil on Hemp Cloth,
 162x130cm,
 Courtesy of the Artist
 and Kukje Gallery
 사진: 안천호
 이미지 제공: 국제갤러리

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cooperation Kukje Gallery(02-735-8410)

하중현(b.1935), 'Conjunction 21-51', 2021, Oil on Hemp Cloth, 117x91cm, Courtesy of the Artist and Kukje Gallery
사진: 안천호 이미지 제공: 국제갤러리