

# ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Woo Jung Ghil's practice engages deeply with what can be termed 'consciousness' or 'being'. Defying easy description, this state is simultaneously vast and amorphous. It exists before and outside of the realm of intellect, of emotions, of symbols. Thus, it has accordingly been referred to as 'Nothingness' in Zen Buddhism and in Western philosophy, notably by Jean Paul Sartre, in his seminal text *Being and Nothingness*. It is the paradox of the fullness of Nothingness that finds its expression in Woo Jung Ghil's oeuvre.

Woo Jung Ghil's process is a balance between intuition, clarity and control. Pigments are diluted significantly to enable thin layers of paint to be applied to canvas. A fundamental precursor to the application of each layer of paint is the achievement of an 'ideal' state of mind. This allows her to apply the paint spontaneously without mental preconceptions. As the initial layers progress a concept of how the painting will proceed emerges. The application of subsequent layers is then informed in dialogue with this concept. This echoes the phenomenological processes of the mind as new surroundings are analysed and understood.

The compositions exist as a paradox: they give form to formlessness. This is the visual iteration of the concept of a full *Nothingness*. As tones, colours, lines and shapes converge a sense of depth is achieved. 'All these layers matter' Woo Jung Ghil states, 'because they eventually come up'. This can be seen in the subtle tonal modulations and bleed of colour as layers of paint intertwine. This depth is the visual analogue of the vastness of consciousness once the 'ideal' state of mind is achieved.

What is striking in Woo Jung Ghil's work is the coherence of process and final work. Although exact descriptors of this correlation are inherently tricky, the feelings evoked by each painting stands as testament to the success of her philosophical inquiry.



**Woo Jung Ghil** (b. Seoul, 1992) lives and works in London

**Education:**

Camberwell College of Art (BA), 2013

Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts, 2020

The Royal College of Art (RCA), Painting (MA), 2023

**Previous Exhibitions:**

**2025**

*Savouring Silence*, Kearsey & Gold, London UK

**2024**

*Reclaim*, Solo Exhibition, Seoul Auction X - Seoul, UK

*Looking Through Mirror and Water*, solo exhibition, Changsha Museum of Art, Hunan province, China

*Uncarved Block*, *Unbleached Silk*, *The Meeting Point*, curated by Matilda Liu - London, UK

*Summer Stroll*, The Stroll Gallery, curated by Stella Yumi Kim - Hong Kong, China

*Anonymous Title*, The Stroll Gallery, curated by Stella Yumi Kim - Hong Kong, China

**2023**

*Even poets were jealous of these*, Vermillion & Partners, curated by Anke Kempkes & Linn Zhang - London, UK

*Linger in Silence*, Willesden Gallery, curated by TRA Collection - London, UK

*One foot in the sky*, Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer with Apsara Studio/Aora Gallery, curated by Jenn Ellis - London, UK

*Quiet Shores*, Vibrant Swells: The Young Waves from East Asia, European Cultural Academy, curated by Jin Joo Lee - Venice, Italy

Royal College of Art Graduation Show, The Truman Brewery - London, UK

*Raise Love by One Inch*, The Crypt Gallery with Pinjin Culture Development Co., Ltd. curated by Zhaoqi Yu - London, UK

*Moving Through, A Transitional Moment*, Safe House with Apsara Gallery, curated by Gabrielle Ackerman - London, UK

*In the Midst of a Melting Garden*, Ruptureexhibit, curated by Jinyao Wang, Yan Xie - London, UK

*Backstroke*, Batsford Gallery with RCA CSSA, curated by Jiayi Hong - London, UK

*The Infinite Game: Dicing*, Hexagon Gallery, curated by Yvonne Wang - Shenzhen, China

*Christie's Lates: Year of the Rabbit - Outlanders: Dreams of a New Moon*, Christie's London, curated by Sukii Lu, Zihan Wen - London, UK

*Infinite Softness*, Danuseur & Ramírez, curated by Casper Danuser

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