

Sotheby's INSTITUTE OF ART

Behind the Scenes of Your Fantasy

Hojae Kim

Curated by Crystal Lou, Sarah Nam, and Bingjin Zheng



Theater Seats, 2016, Acrylic, inkjet on archival paper, enamel on sectioned panels, 12'x 8'

Sotheby's Institute of Art is pleased to present *Behind the Scenes of Your Fantasy*, a solo exhibition of paintings by emerging artist Hojae Kim, curated by Master of Art Business candidates 2018 Crystal Lou, Sarah Nam, and Bingjin Zheng. The exhibition is located in the student commons on the sixth floor of the New York campus on 570 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10022 and is free and open to the public but requires preliminary registration.

Behind the Scenes of Your Fantasy presents motion pictures as the central theme of the exhibition, and invites the audience to approach the concept from two points of view. The exhibition is composed of *Theater* and *Studio*, referring to the places where the movies are created or shown. Through this exhibition, we hope to address the issue that has been long overlooked - theaters are empty and movies give life to them. We ask viewers to rethink the reasons that they watch movies in theaters. Is the day after day nine to five schedule too tiring, leading cinema-goers to find some excitement? Or do the movie characters enchant the audience with surrealism and magic they could only imagine?

Kim's practice focuses on oil, acrylic, and inkjet on archival paper and enamel on panels. All the works are created in his signature style: a majority of the works are from his *Theater* series and the remainder are from the *Studio* series. The *Theater* series consists of small-scale popcorn paintings and a large-scale painting entitled *Concession Stand*, which depicts an unpopulated stand with only popcorn, soda, and slices of pizza. The series also consists of two impressive large-scale paintings *Theater Seats* and *Theater Screen* which are depicting an empty theater without an audience or movie screening. The two architectural-like works are placed face-to-face, directing the audience to imagine how those spaces, normally filled with light and colors, would look without the motion pictures - taking the *movies* out of the context. The use of a grey palette gives a deeper meaning to the works. The dewy color symbolizes our reality - the quotidian, repetitive daily schedule. We hope that the audience will rethink the reasons they go to the theater during their free time. Whether the hollowness in their life is the reason they enjoy the exhilaration of movies?

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The remaining nine works in the *Studio* series depict Kim's wildest imagination about movie production studios. The use of a vivid palette symbolizes the imagination and creativity behind a screenwriter's mind. This series inspired the title for the show *Behind the Scenes of Your Fantasy*. Kim kept his subject matter of the movies conceptual without having a physical representation, only to be imagined by the audience. The large-scale painting *Snake* depicts people, in various states of copulation, in line to play an arcade game. The studio lights above suggest this is the filming of a movie such as *The Human Centipede*.

Through the vibrant *Studio* series, we hope to inspire audiences to review their craziest childhood dreams. Notebooks and sketchbooks will be placed on the desk, inviting audiences to either write down or draw what they wanted to be when they were young and what they are doing today.

The opening reception will take place on **Wednesday, November 7, 6 - 8PM**. The curators and Kim will conduct a short panel discussion at **7 PM**.

Hojae Kim (Born 1993) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He immigrated from Korea to Los Angeles, the motion picture capital of the world, at the age of 11. He graduated from Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) with a BFA in Painting in 2016. His many jobs, including being a stage painter, muralist, club promoter, streetwear designer, might have been subconscious inspiration for this very theatrical exhibition. Recent projects include the '*Erased Rauschenberg*' collaboration with Nicolas Bentel. Recent group exhibitions include: *Love You This*, Memorial Hall Gallery, Providence, RI, 2016; *Sprout*, Providence, RI, 2016; *Chronicles of Gnarlia*, Red Eye Gallery, RI, 2016; *Wet*, Trade Pop-Up, Providence, RI, 2014. *Behind the Scenes of Your Fantasy* is his first solo exhibition.

RSVP please email exhibitionrsvp@sia.edu

Please bring photo identification to gain entry to the building.

For images and more information please contact sarah.nam@sia.edu

Behind the Scenes of Your Fantasy exhibition at:

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