

KÖNIG GALERIE

DAVID ZINK YI PLAYING UNTIL FAILURE

KÖNIG SEOUL | 21 MAY – 17 JUNE 2023

KÖNIG SEOUL is pleased to present an exhibition by David Zink Yi, *PLAYING UNTIL FAILURE*, the artist's first solo presentation in Korea. The show consists of over a dozen ceramic works, including the sprawling *ALL MY COLOURS*, a multi-part collection of serially repeated ceramic forms, each with their own unique glaze, which is also on view at the Gwangju Biennial. Additionally, a short 16mm film loop, *PNEUMA*, 2011, will be shown, which features Yuliesky Gonzalez Guerra, a longtime collaborator and musician. The loop guides viewers to the centrality of the hand within the show at large, as well as the act of breathing through, which is displayed through Gonzalez Guerra's instrument as it approaches the camera. *PNEUMA* helps to contextualize the ceramic sculptures, as it foregrounds performance, sound, and direct engagement with the artist's hands, all central features of his varied practice.

Zin Yi's artistic practice follows an orthodox trajectory, from video work to sculpture to ceramics and even silk fabrics, newly created especially for Seoul. The journey through these various media nonetheless orbits around some common themes — sound and performance key among them — which began as he turned the camera on his own body in his earliest pieces through to longer-format investigations of musicians in Cuba and his native Peru. Having studied under Lothar Baumgarten in Berlin, the field of ethnographic research was front and center, which the artist cleverly reformulated into a kind of self-ethnography, as he worked to come to terms with his own complex heritage. A descendant of Indigenous Peruvians as well as Chinese, Italian, and German immigrants, the artist's own body was already a nexus of postcoloniality.

The migratory nature of Zink Yi's practice is highlighted by the degree to which certain forms are repeated or reused to create entirely new bodies of work. In one of the most recent investigations, the artist took high-resolution images of his *ALL MY COLOURS* ceramics and printed them on large silk fabrics, which are then displayed as hybrid objects that hang or drape over other pieces or presented alone. In essence, the act of covering or clothing is maintained in the silk works, only its use and display are altered, highlighting the inherent complexity and transformational potential in each element of Zink Yi's art. There is no one, final statement offered; rather, multiplicity is inherent in each form.

Larger sculptural ceramics are also on display, engaging more directly through scale and movement with the body of the artist and viewers. These works are porous, open to the spaces around them as well as to the other objects on display and reinforce the protean nature of Zink Yi's mode of artistic inquiry. Each element of these larger works is rendered with an eye toward the transparency of its creation, hiding nothing from view, and imploring us to get close to its making. This is a musical understanding of the sculptural work, where polyphony is key — that many voices exist simultaneously — requiring the participation and involvement of a multitude. There is no one, final statement offered; rather, multiplicity is inherent in each form.

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EXHIBITIONS

ROBERT JANITZ
Sphinx
KÖNIG GALERIE
29.04 – 02.06.2023

MONIRA AL QADIRI
Crude Eye
KÖNIG GALERIE
29.04 – 02.06.2023

ANSELM REYLE
Paradise
KÖNIG GALERIE
09.06 – 23.07.2023

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Tue – Sat 11 AM – 7 PM

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David Zink Yi (b. 1973 in Lima, Peru) studied at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich, and at the Universität der Künste, Berlin. His most recent solo exhibitions were at Hauser & Wirth, Zurich (2020), The Belvedere, Vienna (2019), Museo de arte de Lima (2012), NBK Berlin (2012) as well as in the Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis (2011), MAK, Wien (2010) or at the Kunst Halle, Sankt Gallen (2009). He took part in group exhibitions at the Tate Modern, London (2012), Museo Sala de arte, Mexico (2012), Ludwig Forum in Aachen, Germany (2012) and Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany (2020). In 2013 David Zink Yi participated in the 55th Biennale in Venice. Works by Zink Yi are represented in numerous collections such as those of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the MUDAM, Luxemburg, and Museum Ludwig, Cologne.

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