

WHITE CUBE

Press Release

Zhou Li
26 June – 9 August 2025
White Cube Seoul

Press Preview and Artist Tour

Wednesday 25 June 2025
2–4pm

White Cube Seoul opens the first exhibition in South Korea by Chinese artist Zhou Li (b. 1969), featuring 10 new large-scale paintings made over the past year.

Centred on a philosophical approach to artmaking, Zhou's method relates to Eastern philosophies of consciousness and the self. Her abstract works emerge from meditative reflections on emotions, encounters with people, or events, with an introspective, fluid process.

Zhou's technique focuses on expressive line-making and abstract forms incorporating illusory, endless loops and defining blocks of colour that delimit transient, open spaces. Her works can be considered in dialogue with contemporary Western art – in particular, the paintings of Mark Rothko or Cy Twombly – and Chinese calligraphy masters, such as the 7th-century artist Zhan Ziqian and the 4th-century writer Wang Xizhi.

Born in Hunan, and based in Shenzhen, China, her work has been exhibited across Asia and internationally, with recent solo presentations at Jebum-gang Art Center, Lhasa, Tibet (2024), Château La Coste, France (both 2022) and White Cube Bermondsey, London (2019), as well as in group shows at Jing'an Sculpture Park, Shanghai, in 2018, and 'From East to West—Parallel Event of the 56th Biennial of Venice', Italy, in 2015.

'Zhou Li' is on view at White Cube Seoul from 26 June until 9 August 2025.

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Notes to Editors:

- Zhou Li was born in 1969 in Hunan, China, and lives and works in Shenzhen. She studied oil painting at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China, graduating in 1991. In 1995 Zhou moved to France, where she lived and worked until 2003.

In 2015 Zhou was appointed Director of the Institute of Abstraction and Contemporary Arts, at the Centre of Research on Artistic and Cultural Innovation and Development, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. Since 2012 she has been a guest professor in the Oil Painting Department, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China. She has also been artist-in-residence at Shenzhen Art Academies, a guest professor at the Art Design College of Shenzhen University and the art consultant for Shenzhen Airport. In 2019 she was appointed Director of No.5 Studio in the Department of Oil Painting of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts and Academic Committee member of Pingshan Art Museum.

Solo exhibitions include 'Four Seasons', Jebum-gang Art Center, Tibet (2024); 'Water and Dreams', Château La Coste, Aix-en-Provence, France and Urban Cosmologies | 9th Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/ Architecture, GDH City • Jjinpi Fang, Shenzhen, China (both 2022); 'White Shadows', Yuz Museum, Shanghai and 'The Ring of Life: Zhou Li', Hive Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (both 2017). She has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including 'City Unbounded', Jing'an Sculpture Park, Shanghai (2018); 'The world is yours, as well as ours', White Cube, London (2016) and 'From East to West—Parallel Event of the 56th Biennial of Venice', Italy (2015).

- Situated in the heart of the bustling Gangnam district, White Cube Seoul comprises exhibition spaces, a private viewing room and offices and is led by the gallery's Korean Representative and Director Jini Yang, who joined the gallery in 2018.
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
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