

Conversations II
Prabhavathi Meppayil and Yeesoookyung
May 27 - July 12, 2025
Esther Schipper, Seoul

Esther Schipper Seoul is pleased to present a two-person exhibition titled **Conversations II** featuring Prabhavathi Meppayil and Yeesoookyung. This exhibition marks the second installment of Esther Schipper Seoul's Conversation series which began in March following the gallery's expansion and relocation to Hannam-dong.

This series of exhibitions, which presents works in a new context in which artists who explore the concepts of media and art in various ways can freely “converse” with one another, is part of Esther Schipper's ongoing efforts to engage closely with Korean audiences and foster meaningful exchanges. Through this exhibition program, Esther Schipper aims to serve as a vibrant cultural exchange platform, introducing global artists who have collaborated with the gallery over the years to Korea, while also introducing Korean artists to Europe.

Meppayil's works, which at first glance recalls minimalist abstract paintings, reveal their nature when viewed up close. The geometric patterns created by repeatedly stamping hand tools used in metalwork onto the surface, or the metallic lines sparkling beneath the layers of white gesso, are the result of the artist's repetitive and performative process, infused with the warmth of human touch.

These works by Meppayil resonate with the works of Yeesoookyung, who gathers broken and fragmented pieces, arranges them, and connects them one by one to form new structures. The sharp edges of broken and shattered pottery are connected again through the artist's hands, and the scars of the past inherent in the shapes are slowly but surely healed through the layers of gold leaf that are added. The shards of pottery, which were destroyed and discarded for various reasons, are reborn as complete objects with their own meaning and as new sculptures in Yeesoookyung's works.

The two artists, one from India and the other from South Korea, engage in a dialogue through the language of contemporary art rooted in tradition, creating meaningful new expressions. The performative nature of their creative process and the tactile warmth of their works, crafted through the artists' hands, embody a profound transformation of the past into a contemporary visual language. This exhibition offers a meaningful opportunity to explore how the encounter between two artists from distinct cultural backgrounds can enrich the discourse of contemporary art.

Prabhavathi Meppayil was born in 1965 in Bangalore, India, where she currently lives and works. She studied at Bangalore University and Ken School of Art, Bangalore.

Meppayil's work has been exhibited at numerous institutions, particularly in India and Europe. In 2014, she had a solo exhibition at the American Academy in Rome, **Nine Seventeen: Prabhavathi Meppayil**, and in 2013, her work was shown in the 55th Venice Biennale exhibition, **The Encyclopedic Palace**, curated by Massimiliano Gioni.

Her work is held in the collections of: Kasturbhai Lalbhai Museum, Ahmedabad; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Delhi; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; Pinault Collection, Paris, and Samdani Art Foundation, Bangladesh.

Yeesookyung was born in 1963, in Seoul, Korea, where she now lives and works. The artist received her B.F.A as well as her M.F.A in painting from Seoul National University.

The artist's solo exhibitions include: **Temple portatif**, Musée Cernuschi, Paris (2023); **Yeesookyung: Une Rose**, Gana Art NineOne, Seoul (2023); **Moonlight Crowns**, Art Sonje Center, Seoul (2021); **The Story of a Girl Named Long Journey**, Buk-Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul (2021); **Whisper Only to You**, MDRE & Capodimonte Museum, Naples (2019); **Saint Breeder**, Atelier Hermès, Seoul (2015); **When I become you. Yeesookyung in Taipei**, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (2015).

Her work is included in the collections of: Acrovista, Seoul; The Ambassador, Seoul; Amorepacific Museum of Art, Seoul; ARCO Collection, IFEMA, Madrid; Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Bogagka, Seoul; Bristol Museum, Bristol; The British Museum, London; Byucksan Corporation, Seoul; Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte, Naples; Cha Bio Complex, Seongnam; Daegu Museum of Art Collection, Daegu; DMZ Peace & Culture Square, Pyeongchang; Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka; Gana Foundation for Art and Culture, Seoul; Gyeonggi Museum of Art, Ansan; Hite Collection, Seoul; Jesse & Julie Rasch Foundation, Toronto;