

## In Dialogue With Uli Sigg

### Yeesoookyung's Open Storage

Sep. 4, 2023 (2 – 4 p.m.)

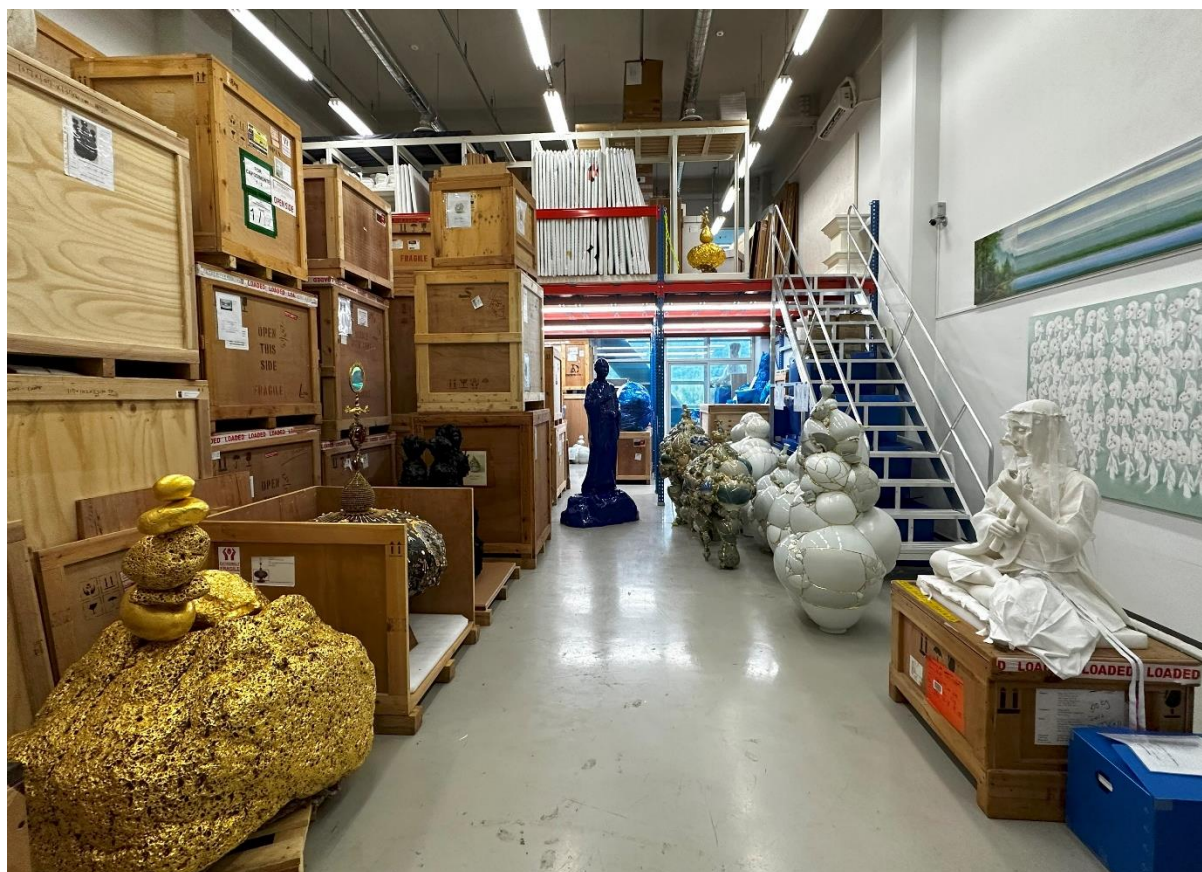
Artist Storage in Samsung Techno Valley, Goyang-si

curated by Lynna Kim

organized by Yeesoookyung Studio

**\*By appointment only**

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Installation View: *In Dialogue With Uli Sigg: Yeesoookyung's Open Storage*, Sep. 4, 2023

Yeesoookyung Studio is delighted to announce that it will open to the public Yeesoookyung's storage on September 4, 2023. Curated with the works selected by the world-renowned contemporary art collector Uli Sigg (b.1946), the exhibition aims at exploring Yeesoookyung's creative journey over the last 30 years and the significance of their artistic connection.

In June 2023, Yeesoookyung moved about 1,500 works that had been kept in a storage near the DMZ to a new space. Leaving the DMZ storage, she happened to think of Uli Sigg, a former Swiss Ambassador to North Korea and one of the most influential figures in her artistic career.

“What was the first impression Uli Sigg had of my works? Where would my works be positioned in the broad spectrum of his collection?”

Originating from these simple and spontaneous questions asked by the artist, the exhibition is the result of the dialogue between Yee and Sigg through recent two-months long exchange of e-mails.

Yeesoookyung’s first encounter with Uli Sigg dates back 15 years ago. They first connected when Sigg acquired a drawing work from a new series she had been working on, rather than a work from the *Translated Vase* series which had been gaining recognition at the time. While preparing for her solo exhibition as an artist in residence at the Mongin Art Center in Seoul, she began the *Flame* series drawings, drawn with cinnabar, a red pigment commonly used in talismans or Buddhist painting. Departing the way from her former approach of conceptualism, Yee captured her inner emotions on paper in a prostrate position. As the work was complete, it aroused both of her exhilaration of creation and sense of fear. Her first meeting with Uli Sigg allowed Yee to overcome the fear of uncertainty in her new attempt and to gain confidence in continuing to work on this series. Since then, he has helped her to expand her artistic practices. For instance, in 2019, Sigg played an instrumental role in holding Yeesoookyung’s large-scale solo exhibitions at the Madre Museum and the Capodimonte Museum in Naples, Italy.

Among the over 1,500 works created by Yeesoookyung from 1992 to the present, Uli Sigg selected around twenty pieces for this exhibition, which include *The Very Best Statue Kyiv, Ukraine* completed for a local project in Kyiv in 2012 and *You Were There* for a DMZ Project in 2017. These meticulously selected works by the visionary collector of this era will offer

the audience a chance to experience Yeesoookyung's multifarious range of creations and to gain a profound perspective on her long creative explorations of inner emotions in their dialogue. Due to the nature of her collection, this exhibition will only be available by appointment.

### **Uli Sigg** (b. 1946)

Having served as the Swiss Ambassador to China, Mongolia, and North Korea in the mid-1990s, Uli Sigg (b. 1946) is currently known as an influential contemporary art collector. In his career, Sigg traversed very diverse fields ranging from journalism to industry, diplomacy, venture capital investment, as well as art. His extensive interactions for more than forty years with the People's Public China (PRC) hold two historic significances: in 1980, he established the first industrial joint venture between the PRC and the outside world which marks the beginning of the PRC's epochal globalization process; and he formed the singular collection of Chinese contemporary art that can represent the story line from its starting in the 1970s to the present – following with the restitution of 1,500 works (two-thirds of his holdings) back to China, to the M+ Museum in Hongkong.

Uli Sigg also supported artists' creative activities by founding in 1997 the Chinese Contemporary Art Award (CCAA) for Chinese contemporary artists living in Greater China, which has now transformed into the SIGG PRIZE. Serving on the Board and Acquisition Committee of the M+ Museum in Hong Kong, the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, and the International Advisory Council of the Tate in London, Sigg is actively engaged in the international art scene. In 2021, he revealed some parts of his collection of the North and South Korean art to the public through an exhibition from his collection at the Museum of Fine Arts Bern (Kunstmuseum Bern) in Switzerland. As the

exhibition entitled *SIGG: Chinese Contemporary Art* from the Sigg Collection held at SONGEUN in Seoul has been held successfully held recently, Uli Sigg has also garnered a solid reputation in Korean art scene.

## **Yeesoookyung** (b.1963)

Yeesoookyung has steadily expanded the spectrum of her work into diverse areas based on a rich narrative imagination. Aware of multi-religions, multi-cultures and fragmented histories, the artist has explored the theme of “translation” since the early 2000s and developed her universe while delving deeper into the invisible world and the realm of the unconscious. Embracing all artisanal techniques from traditional craftsmanship to cutting-edge digital technologies, her unique artistic practice has been constantly expanding.

Yeesoookyung has solidified her position on the international stage by holding multiple solo exhibitions, including *Whisper Only to You*, MDRE & Capodimonte Museum, Naples, Italy (2019); *Saint Breeder*, Atelier Hermès, Seoul (2015); *When I become you*, Yeesoookyung in Taipei, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan (2015). The artist was also invited to the 57th Venice Biennale, titled *VIVA ARTE VIVA* curated by Christine Macel, in Arsenale (2017) and to *Valentino Re-Signify Part II* in Shanghai in 2021.

Her works are in the collections of museums overseas, including National Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea; Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul; Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul; The British Museum, London, UK; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA; Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA; M+ Museum, Hong Kong; Capodimonte Museum, Naples, Italy; Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv, Ukraine.



***The Very Best Statue Kyiv, Ukraine, 2012***

Poly resin, fabric, mixed object  
88x67x45 cm

Courtesy of the artist



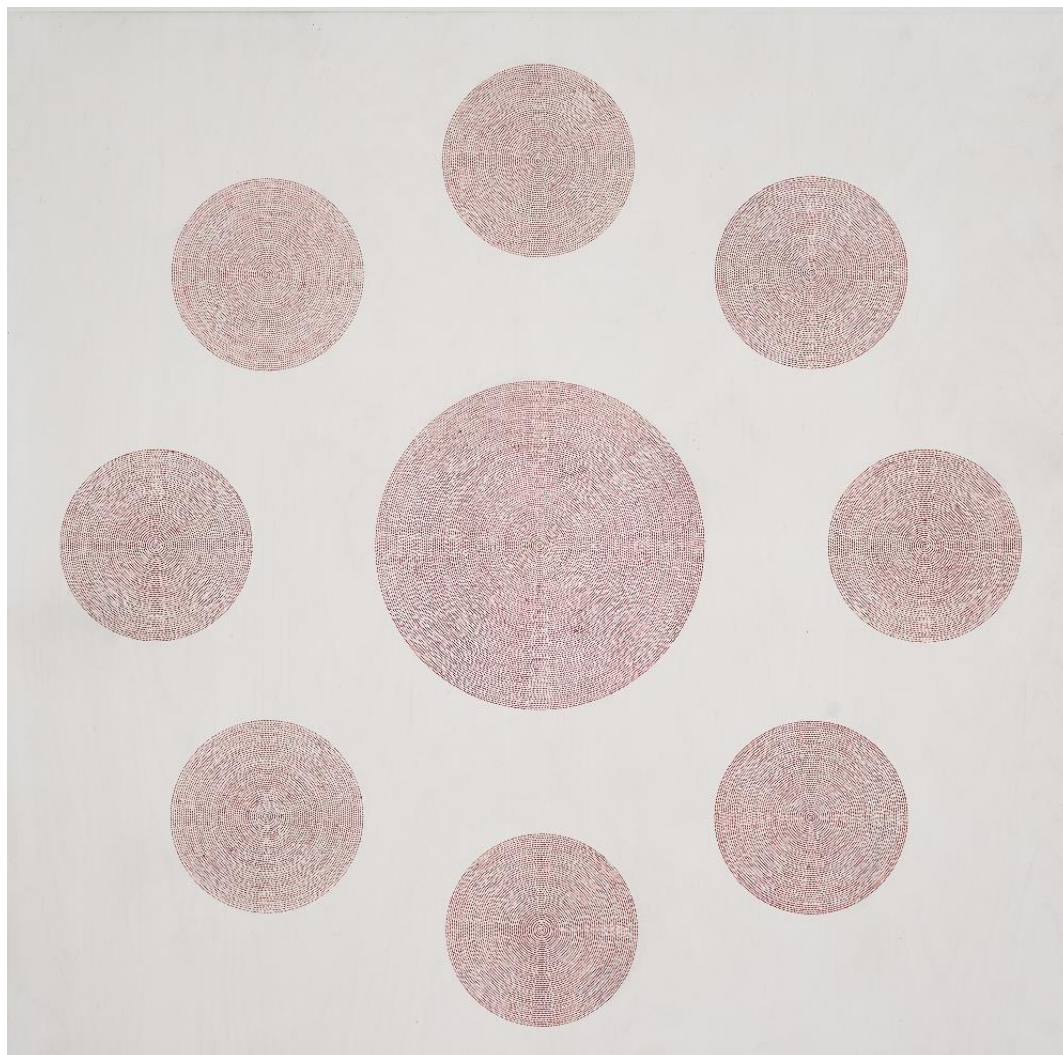


***You Were There: DMZ Project 2017, 2017***

Rocks, 24K gold leaf, urethane paint

75x60x63 cm

Courtesy of the artist



***Flame Seed 2021\_1***, 2021

Cinnabar on wood panel

100x100 cm

Courtesy of the artist



***Translated Vase\_2023 TVGKSHW 1, 2023***

Ceramic shards, epoxy, 24k gold leaf  
134x63.5x72.5 cm

Courtesy of the artist