

For Immediate Release

Lust for Donuts

Solo Exhibition featuring Jae Yong Kim
September 13 – October 6, 2012

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 13, 6-8pm

BLANK SPACE is pleased to present a solo exhibition titled “Lust for Donuts” featuring selected sculptures by Jae Yong Kim. “Lust for Donuts” is comprised of sets of snails that represent both societal and psychological “battles”. Their interactions expose human materialism in a humorous way by juxtaposing greed and the absurdity of snails.

Carl Jung stated that snails were representative of the “self” in dreams: the soft body as the Subconscious, and the shell, the Conscious. Kim uses the subject of the snail to give distance, perspective, and physical representation to the conflicts and pressures of achievement, success, and material gains. Additionally, Kim has moved so often, primarily between the US and Korea, he has found it difficult to find the feeling of “home”. For him, “home” is a verb -- not stable or comforting -- it is always changing, always moving. Kim uses the relatable snail, who carries its home, its shell, on its back to represent this kind of life.

It is through the objectivity of seeing snails personified that Kim encourages the audience to be more self-aware, to pause and reflect. Snails are not often seen naturally in modern cities because of pollution. The artist brings them back to life in a new way. While giving us a chance to remember what has been lost or forgotten in an engaging and safe place, he is also parodying human greed through the interplay of these snails with large, expressive eyes and comically-oversized teeth. The snails’ presence harkens back to an earlier time, while the interaction Kim stages for the viewer is a manifestation of the current zeitgeist.

“Back the F~~Y~~€\$ off”, for example, presents a white snail holding a golden donut in its mouth who is surrounded by several white-gold snails. The juxtaposition of the different materials and bodily expressions – a white one holding a golden donut and the reflective others approaching to steal the donut -- satirizes the insatiable desires and selfishness in today’s society. “Omg! It’s better than sex!” shows angel snails eating donuts and realizing it’s “better than sex”. The snail-angels, literally and figuratively, fall to the ground from the weight of the donut; abandoning their natural state because the temptation of the “donut” is irresistible.

Educated at Hartford Art School (West Hartford, CT) and Cranbrook Academy of Art (Bloomfield Hills, MI), Kim has been featured in a large number of group and solo exhibitions, primarily in galleries between Michigan and Connecticut, and in particular in solo exhibitions at the University Gallery (University of Bridgeport, CT) and New Space Gallery (Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT). Kim is also featured in the collection at Han Hyang Lim Ceramic Museum (Korea), and had received Best of Show Award (Contemporary Vision '98: The University Gallery – Bridgeport, CT) where a juror was Ivan Karp, Owner, O.K. Harris Gallery.