

## Han Ji Min

Han Ji Min is a contemporary artist based in Seoul, Korea recognised for her distinctly soft-edged compositions of figures in serene and peaceful environments. Han's oil paintings quietly navigate the cultural terrain of contemporary Seoul and question how we locate notions of identity and human sentiment within the human body and its surroundings.

"Backs don't lie" – Han Ji Min finds a person's true feelings in their backs when the masks of everyday life disappear and inner tension is released. The artist pays attention to the stories told by backs, as well as other parts of the body such as the movement of fingertips, in a journey to find the 'true self'. Han depicts these parts of the body in boldly framed compositions that restrict the viewer's field of vision. Instead of imagining beyond the canvas, the viewer is led to focus on the small gestures frozen within the painting, such as the subtle movements and the sound of the figures that move slowly in the static atmosphere.



The characters in Han's paintings modestly hold their positions, representing a slow and tranquil reverie touched by the unintentional and random language of the body. Through this nuance of body language, the artist captures the simultaneous sense of stability and inner anxiety that characterises contemporary urban life.

Han's canvases are awash with soft, mid-range, and near-achromatic hues of grey, blue and pink, articulating an ambiguity that speaks to the inner disquiet of everyday life. Grey, which represents a personality with low energy and a resistance to interference, is overlaid with the sweetness and hope of pink, immersing viewers in the gentle lull between the melancholic, the tranquil and the soothing.

Drawing inspiration from personal life, and careful observation of others in Seoul, Han employs her serene visual language to deeply engage with the nuanced undercurrents of contemporary life, capturing the ambivalence of solitude, melancholy and hope for human connection.

Before pursuing art as a career, Han Ji Min undertook other academic and professional pursuits in her early twenties and thirties. She completed her Masters of Fine Arts in Painting at Hongik University in Seoul, Korea. Her earlier works consist of still-life paintings, with a more recent shift to focusing predominantly on the human body. Since her debut solo exhibition in Seoul in 2018, Han Ji Min has exhibited in various galleries in Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, and more.

## **Han Ji Min CV**

Lives and works in Seoul, South Korea.

### **Education**

2021 Master of Fine Arts in Painting, Hongik University, Seoul, Korea

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2023 *Solitude*, Gallery OVO, Taipei, Taiwan

2022 *Readers*, Yeemock Gallery, Seoul, Korea

2021 *Projectspace Wumin Artist Competition 2021*, Wumin Art Center, Cheongju, Korea

2021 *13th New Artist Competition*, Gallery Tom, Namyangju, Korea

2020 *Monologue*, Yeemock Gallery, Seoul, Korea

2019 *Two People*, Yeemock Gallery, Seoul, Korea

2018 *one day*, Gallery Dam, Seoul, Korea

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2023 *Contemporary Figuration: Between Body & Metaphor*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

2023 *SOTSŪ (Communication)*, Hello Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2023 *Disappearing Moments*, Art GG Gallery, Seongnam, Korea

2023 *ONDO (Temperature)*, Gallery YOOL, Incheon, Korea

2023 *Crossing*, Lorin Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

2022 *A December to Remember*, Off the Record Gallery, Hong Kong

2022 *A miracle that the person I love loves me*, ArtBProject Gallery, Seoul, Korea

2022 *My Secret Place*, Mozuku Gallery, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

2021 *Round Silence*, Polestar Art Gallery, Seoul, Korea

2019 *Portrait 2019*, CICA Museum, Gimpo, Korea

2018 *New Thinking New Art 2018*, Violet Gallery, Seoul, Korea

**Residencies**

2021 *École de Ami Residency Program 2021*, AMI Art Museum, Dangjin, Korea

**Selected Artworks**



**Han Ji Min**

*Shoulder*, 2023

Oil on linen

51 1/8 x 51 1/8 in

130 x 130 cm