

PRESTIGE

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ON STAGE WITH

MARF
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SEOUL ART WEEK | MIN-GOO KANG | KAZUMI ARIKAWA | POST ARCHIVE FACTION | MARTIN PARR | 40 UNDER 40



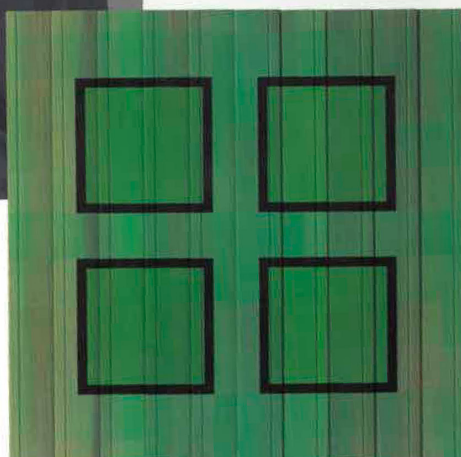
Ahra Kim

AHRA KIM

Kim Ahra works with canvas to create abstract art that draws inspiration from the structures and patterns found in traditional Korean architecture. She collects, materialises and reconstructs these elements, particularly utilising wooden canvas frames to explore the significance of objects beyond the painted surface. "In this new body of work I approach the canvas frame not simply as a support but as an autonomous sculptural element," she says. Kim's earlier work reinterpreted the structure of traditional architecture through reconfigured canvas frames, but she's switched to focusing on the materiality and grain of wood itself. And the space around it – that is, how negative space gives shape to its surroundings. Originally she sourced from photographs taken at palaces and historic sites, but now works more intuitively and spontaneously, without relying on architectural frameworks. "I give form to images as they arise in my mind, or assemble pieces of wood on impulse.



From top: Ahra Kim,
Connection #5 (2025);
The Flat Square (2025);
Untitled (2025)



In this process, I try to connect elements of tradition and abstraction through unexpected moments and ambiguous forms that emerge along the way." She's steeped in Korean modern art appreciation. "When I encounter works by artists like You Youngkuk and Yin Hyong-keun, I'm especially drawn to the way composition, colour and the build-up of formal elements leave behind a quiet but powerful presence. These accumulated traces resonate with me deeply and continue to inform how I approach form and space in my own practice." Kim's work has appeared at System's flagship store in Paris in 2024 and The Stroll Gallery in Hong Kong; there's a group show planned for October and a solo show early next year with Kimreeaa Gallery in Seoul.