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Collateral Event of the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

**Korean artist Chun Kwang Young’s *Times Reimagined* exhibition at Palazzo Contarini Polignac in Venice, to present *Hanji House,* the new site-specific architectural pavilion by Stefano Boeri Architetti, visible from the Grand Canal**

Designed by **Stefano Boeri Architetti**, the ***Hanji House*** is a site-specific commissioned pavilion made in dialogue with the exhibition ***Chun Kwang Young: Times Reimagined*** – that features 40 large-scale mulberry-paper reliefs, sculptures and installations created by the Korean artist **Chun Kwang Young**, at the Palazzo Contarini Polignac, in Venice.

“Hanji” is the name given to a traditional Korean paper made technique deriving from mulberry, also known as the "thousand years paper" due to its great resistance. It is also Chun’s prime tool of creation, which he uses to shape metamorphotic creatures reminiscent of living beings or spectacular scenes with historical and cultural symbolism.

Installed in the Palazzo’s gardens, overlooking the Grand Canal in Venice, the *Hanji House* is a wooden pavilion, a practical model of ‘paper-tree architecture’ and it looks as a lantern from a distance. The design is inspired by the playful and yet meditative practice of folding paper in an infinite number of ways: the shape recalls ancient East Asian practices of paper-folding and *tangram*, besides the traditional Korean and East Asian houses, based on simple geometric modularity. It is made by a simple combination of volumes: four pyramids on the top of a parallelepiped, defining a planar surface shaped as a regular rhombus in the middle.

From the outside, the envelope gives the *Hanji House* the appearance of a precious and at the same time playful object, a lighthouse to illuminate both the splendid Renaissance architecture in which it is located and the works of art that surround it.

Inside the *Hanji House*, a real-time interactive art installation is being developed by media artist Calvin J. Lee. Lee transformed triangular *hanji* packages created by artist Chun Kwang Young into virtual form. The tranquil environment inside *Hanji House* offers an immersive space for visitors to unwind and explore their inner selves as if walking through the interior of Chun’s works.

Chun Kwan Young has been working for 30 years under the theme of the *interconnectedness* between living beings and the socio-ecological values of their relationships. In ecology, *interconnectedness* is an absolute factor for the reproduction and survival of all living things, as well as an essential for ensuring biodiversity and enhancing sustainability in any adverse conditions.

The *Hanji House* will be open to the public from April 23 to 27 November 2022.

The official opening of the *Chun Kwan Young: Times Reimagined* and the *Hanji House* takes place with an academic forum on Thursday 21 April 2022 at 2pm and an Opening Ceremony at 7pm.

**Academic Forum: *The Art and Built Environment in the Age of Ecological Crisis***

Against the backdrop of human experiences of technological diversity, convenience, and utopian illusion of the future, in contrast to the rapid decline of biodiversity and staggering ecological imbalance, biologists, philosophers, artists, architect, activist, critics and curators will be gathered to propose constructive plans to respond to the current situations.

Speakers are **Stefano Boeri, Choe Jaechun, Otobong Nkanga, Sam Bardaouil, Li Xiangning, Andrew Brewerton, Lucia Pietroiusti, Jean-Marie Gallais.**

**Promoted by:** Boghossian Foundation

**Supported by:** Museum Ground, Interart Channel

**Exhibition Duration:** 23 April – 27 November 2022

**Press Preview:** 20th – 22nd April 2022

**Academic Forum:** 2pm, 21st April 2022

**Opening Ceremony**: 7pm, 21st April 2022

**Venue:** Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Dorsoduro 874, Venice

**Website**: [www.timesreimagined.com](http://www.timesreimagined.com)

**Instagram:** @timesreimagined

**Curator:** Yongwoo Lee

**Curatorial Adviser:** Manuela Lucà-Dazio

**Stefano Boeri Architetti
Founding Partner:** Stefano Boeri

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**Editors’ Notes**

**Chun Kwang Young, Artist**

Born in South Korea, Chun Kwang Young (b.1944) is an artist who has been working for about 30 years under the theme of the interconnectedness between living beings and the socio-ecological values of their relationships. He studied at Hong-Ik University in Korea and received his MFA from the Philadelphia College of Art. Chun was named Artist of the Year by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul and awarded Presidential Prize in the 41st Korean Culture and Art Prize by the Ministry of Culture. Chun has held about 40 solo exhibitions, including the ones in Brooklyn Museum, New York (2018), Museum De Reede, Antwerp (2017), Villa Empain, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels (2017), Knoxville Museum of Art, Tennessee (2011), Mori Arts Center, Tokyo (2009), Aldrich Contemporary Museum, Connecticut (2008), The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea (2001), etc. His works are in the collections of the British Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum in London, KUNST Museum Bonn, Yale University Art Gallery, M+ Museum, Hong Kong, National Gallery of Australia, The Leeum Samsung Museum, Seoul, Rockefeller Foundation, New York, among others.

**Stefano Boeri, Architect**

Stefano Boeri, architect and urban planner, is Professor of Urban Planning at Politecnico di Milano. He has been curator of international architecture exhibitions, among which Shanghai Urban Space Art Season 2017 and São Paulo Calling. He was a member of the Architecture Council for Expo 2015, Councilor for Culture, Fashion and Design of the Municipality of Milan (2011-2013), and a member of the scientific committee of the Uffizi Galleries in Florence (2015-2018). In Milan, since 2017, he has been the creator and Artistic Director of the Milan Arch Week promoted with the Municipality of Milan. Since February 2018 he has been President of Fondazione La Triennale di Milano. The work of the Stefano Boeri Architetti studio ranges from the production of urban visions and architecture to interior and product design, with constant focus on the geopolitical and environmental implications of urban phenomena. Among Stefano Boeri’s main works the Milan Vertical Forest has received the International Highrise Award (2014) and the Best Tall Building Worldwide (2015), and it has been recognized as a worldwide landmark in contemporary architecture.

**Yongwoo Lee, Curator**

Yongwoo Lee is an art historian and curator. He was the executive director of Shanghai Himalayas Museum and the artistic director of *Shanghai Project*. Lee was the founding artistic director of Gwangju Biennale initiated in 1995, and the president of Gwangju Biennale Foundation. He was the president of International Biannual Association (IBA). Lee curated numerous exhibitions, including *Dansaekhwa* (Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Venice), *Nam June Paik Retrospective* (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul), *Film and Video since 1980s* (Shanghai Himalayas Museum), *The Flower of May* (Gwangju Museum of Art), among others. He was a professor of Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts at Shanghai University, and of Korea University. He authored books such as *Information and Reality*, *Nam June Paik*, *On Video Art*, among others.

**Manuela Lucà-Dazio, Curatorial Advisor**

Manuela Lucà-Dazio holds a degree in Architecture and a PHD in History of Architecture. She is the Executive Director of the Pritzker Architecture Foundation, and Advisor to the LUMA Foundation in Arles, France. From 2009 until 2019 she has been the Managing Director of the Visual Arts and Architecture Department of La Biennale di Venezia, where she was also formerly responsible of the technical organization and production of the International Exhibitions. Earlier than that, she was in charge of the restoration project and permanent exhibition design of the Jewish Museum of Rome, Italy from 2000 until 2009. From 1996 until 1999 she was part of the architectural firm in charge of the restoration and permanent exhibition design of the National Museum of San Martino in Naples, Italy.