

Kiki Smith: Spring Light

May 17 – June 24, 2023
2/3F, Pace Gallery Seoul

Opening Reception: May 16, 5–7 PM



Kiki Smith, *Evening Star*, 2023 © Kiki Smith

Seoul–Pace is pleased to present an exhibition of work by Kiki Smith at its arts complex in Seoul. On view from May 17 to June 24, the presentation, titled *Spring Light*, will bring together new and recent sculptures, drawings, and prints that explore the phenomenological qualities of water, the sky, and the cosmos. This exhibition—which follows Smith’s recent solo exhibition at the Seoul Museum of Art and marks her first solo show at Pace’s Seoul gallery—will reflect the artist’s longstanding artistic exploration of the relationships between humans and natural world.

Since the 1980s, Smith has nurtured a multidisciplinary practice spanning sculpture, printmaking, photography, drawing, and textile work. As part of her experimentations across mediums and materials, the artist has drawn inspiration from a wide range of histories, visual cultures, and mythologies to meditate on embodied experiences of nature. Smith’s upcoming exhibition with Pace in Seoul will focus on the ecstatic energy and illimitable power of nature in full bloom.

The show will begin on the second floor of the gallery, where works examining the makeup of the cosmos will be on view. In this gallery, moons, constellations, and nebulae will abound, creating otherworldly visions that transcend the boundaries of the space-time continuum. Smith’s works on paper feature lyrical, poetic depictions of far-away stars, gaseous bodies, and galaxies. Her aluminium sculpture *Starlight* (2022)—along with her large-scale 2011 bronze work *The Owls*—will also figure prominently in this space. Together, these works on paper and various sculptures invite viewers into Smith’s mystical world.

On the gallery’s third floor, the exhibition will bring visitors back to Earth with works centered on water. The pieces presented in this space will highlight Smith’s ability to work across different media, from silver sculpture to drawing and cyanotype printing. Water has been an enduring interest and subject for Smith, who recently unveiled an 80-foot-long mosaic titled *River Light*, one of several works commissioned for the new Grand Central Madison station in New York. Her work on paper *River* (2020), included in her upcoming show in Seoul, emulates water’s flowing, undulating movements and abstract plays of light on its surface. Also among the artworks on this floor will be the new bronze sculpture *Dark Water* (2023), in which the vitality of water is represented as a divine presence.

Kiki Smith (American, b. 1954, Nuremberg, Germany) is recognized for her multidisciplinary practice through which she explores embodiment and the natural world. The body, mortality, regeneration, gender politics, as well as the interconnection of spirituality and the natural world are observed through a postmodern lens. Her expansive practice resonates personally and universally, manifesting in sculpture, glassmaking, printmaking, watercolor, photography, and textile, among other production methods. Drawn to the cogency of repetition in narratives and symbolic representations,

much of Smith's work is inspired by the visual culture of the past, spanning scientific anatomical renderings from the eighteenth century to the abject imagery of relics, memento mori, folklore, mythology, Byzantine iconography, and medieval altarpieces.

Pace is a leading international art gallery representing some of the most influential contemporary artists and estates from the past century, holding decades-long relationships with Alexander Calder, Jean Dubuffet, Barbara Hepworth, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson, and Mark Rothko. Pace enjoys a unique U.S. heritage spanning East and West coasts through its early support of artists central to the Abstract Expressionist and Light and Space movements.





Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy as an artist-first gallery that mounts seminal historical and contemporary exhibitions. Under the current leadership of CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace continues to support its artists and share their visionary work with audiences worldwide by remaining at the forefront of innovation. Now in its seventh decade, the gallery advances its mission through a robust global program—comprising exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, performances, and interdisciplinary projects. Pace has a legacy in art bookmaking and has published over five hundred titles in close collaboration with artists, with a focus on original scholarship and on introducing new voices to the art historical canon.

Today, Pace has eight locations worldwide, including a European foothold in London and Geneva, and two galleries in New York—its headquarters at 540 West 25th Street, which welcomed almost 120,000 visitors and programmed 20 shows in its first six months, and an adjacent 8,000 sq. ft. exhibition space at 510 West 25th Street. Pace's long and pioneering history in California includes a gallery in Palo Alto, which was open from 2016 to 2022. Pace's engagement with Silicon Valley's technology industry has had a lasting impact on the gallery at a global level, accelerating its initiatives connecting art and technology as well as its work with experiential artists. Pace consolidated its West Coast activity through its flagship in Los Angeles, which opened in 2022. Pace was one of the first international galleries to establish outposts in Asia, where it operates permanent gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Seoul, as well as an office and viewing room in Beijing.

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