

Park Kyoung Mug

박경묵 · 朴京默 · art name 默巖 Mugam

Korean ink painter. Hand-ground ink on hanji.

b. 1981, Hapcheon, South Korea · Lives and works in Gwangju, Gyeonggi, South Korea
Thirty-six solo exhibitions · Work in five public and museum collections in Korea
United Kingdom, exclusive representation: KOUM Partners, London, 2026 to present

PRACTICE

Park Kyoung Mug works in hand-ground ink on hanji, Korean paper made from dak fibre, the inner bark of the paper mulberry. He is one of very few painters of his generation who still prepare their own ink, grinding an inkstick against a wet stone for hours before a session rather than working from bottled ink. The discipline is not nostalgic. It is what the method requires: he grinds, paints, waits for the layer to dry, and begins again, five to ten times over, so that what reaches the paper is not the record of a single gesture but ink laid down over months.

That method depends on the paper. Hanji is engineered for strength and for repeated wetting, and a sheet that survives being soaked and dried thirty times will take thirty layers of ink. The Korean term for the method is jeokmukbeop, 積墨法, accumulated ink. Layered ink is not a Korean invention and Park does not claim it as one; the claim is that it can be carried further on this paper than on any other, and that a Korean painter working on Korean paper has taken it somewhere the shared East Asian tradition did not go.

Since his MFA at Hongik University in 2007 his subjects have stayed close to rock, coast and mountain, but the inquiry has been into duration rather than into landscape. Recent work extends in two directions at once: paintings on the surface of white porcelain forms, and a return into finished paintings of earlier years to work colour over them, so that a surface of 2023 now rests on one of 2020. He works with one hand, having lost his left arm in childhood. This is part of how the work is made rather than its subject. He has shown in Germany, Japan, Poland and the United Kingdom.

EDUCATION

2007	MFA, Oriental Painting	Hongik University, Seoul
2005	BFA, Korean Painting	Dong-a University, Busan

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS — thirty-six in total, most recent first

2026	Accumulating	Gallery T, Lotte Dongtan
2025	Forest of Smoke — Sumuk	Woljeongsa Hwaomru Temple, Pyeongchang
2024	默巖全圖 Mugamjeondo	Gyeongjae Jeong Seon Museum of Art, Seoul
2023	松韻滿東海 Song-un Man Dong-hae	Hanbyeokwon Museum, Seoul

2023	Contain Red and Green	Itta Space Small Museum, Incheon
2022	Stone, Wind, Time of the Sea	Starlight Museum, Gwacheon
2019	泊沄 夢筆生花 Park Hyun: Mugam Punggyeong	Galerie artpark, Karlsruhe, Germany
2016	Solo exhibition	Gana Art Space, Insa-dong, Seoul
2011	眞無盡 Jinmujin	Hanwon Museum of Art, Seoul
2009	Solo exhibition	Harbour Gallery, Busan

Further solo exhibitions 2007 to 2010.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS — over two hundred in total

2026	Dream Journey to Icheon	Woljeon Museum of Art, Icheon
2025	Contemporary Art Japan–Korea Exhibition	Hanbyeokwon Museum, Seoul
2025	Shared Gaze, Connected by Art	Bori Life Art Museum, Daejeon
2025	Ten New Landscapes of Jeju	Hanbyeokwon Museum, Seoul
2024	Elegant Stones	Woljeon Museum of Art, Icheon
2023	Korean Art London, International Korean Art Fair	Mall Galleries, London, United Kingdom
2021	Hidden Brushstrokes	Korean Cultural Centre, Warsaw, Poland
2020	Cultural Heritage Seen by Painters	Jungmyeongjeon Hall, Seoul
2019	Hwayu Geumgang	Gyeongjae Jeong Seon Museum of Art, Seoul
2019	Daily Life in 18th-Century Seoul	Edo-Tokyo Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2018	New Gyeonggyo Myeongseungcheop	Gyeongjae Jeong Seon Museum of Art, Seoul
2017	Gwangju Hwaru: Ten Artists	National Asian Culture Center, Gwangju
2017	Jeonnam International Ink Art Pre-Biennale	Mokpo Comprehensive Art Gallery, Mokpo
2016	A Conversation Between Wind and Wind	Woljeon Museum of Art, Icheon
2015	I Am an Unknown Artist	Arko Art Center, Seoul
2012	Tomorrow's Artist	Gyeongjae Jeong Seon Museum of Art, Seoul

PUBLIC AND MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Acquired steadily rather than at once. The first Government Art Bank acquisition was by open selection; the second came through its programme for artists with disabilities.

2026	Government Art Bank	National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea
2025	Bori Life Art Museum	Daejeon
2023	Government Art Bank	National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea

2023	Incheon Art Bank	Incheon Foundation for Arts and Culture
2020	Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation	Suwon
2016	National Archives of Korea	Daejeon

CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

JW Pharmaceutical Corporation, Gwacheon	Hyundai Bioland Co., Ltd.
Hwain Technology Co., Ltd.	Wise Wires Co., Ltd.
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TEACHING AND MUSEUM EDUCATION

Park is a museum educator as well as a painter. He runs the participation programmes of his own exhibitions rather than delegating them.

2026	Ink painting instruction certificate issued by the Director of the Icheon Woljeon Museum of Art	Armed Forces Correctional Facility, Icheon
2017	Certified lead instructor, Saturday Culture School, a national arts education programme April to November	Gyeongjae Jeong Seon Museum of Art, Seoul
—	Short courses	National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea
—	Ink painting sessions	Gimpo Cultural Foundation

AWARDS

2023	JWart Award, Grand Prize	JW Pharmaceutical, Gwacheon
2017	Gwangju Hwaru, Artist Prize	National Asian Culture Center, Gwangju
2017	Gyeonggi Literary, Art and Photography, Grand Prize	Gyeonggi Provincial Government
2016	International Disability Art Exhibition, Excellence Award	Korea
2012	Tomorrow's Artist, Artist Award	Gyeongjae Jeong Seon Museum of Art, Seoul

RESIDENCIES

2019	International artist residency	Galerie artpark, Karlsruhe, Germany
2010–14	Jamsil Creative Studio, 4th, 5th and 6th cohorts, thirty-seven months	Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture

SELECTED COMMISSIONS

2025–26	NADA ART Music Festival, media collaboration	KT Sangsangmadang and Modu Arts Theatre, Seoul
2022	Baekje Pattern, original artwork for immersive content	National Buyeo Museum, Buyeo

2019	Edo-Tokyo Museum exchange, original artwork	Seoul Museum of History, Seoul
2016	ICA World Congress Seoul, original artwork	Seoul

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRESS

2025	Byun Jong-pil 변종필, 'Park Kyoung Mug's Mugam: The Aesthetics of Serene Contemplation'	Art critic; former Director, Jeju Museum of Contemporary Art
2025	'A Painter of Silence, Stacking Time'	Golf Herald, December
2021	Kim Young-ae 김영애, '默巖 — still rock'	Luxury Magazine 럭셔리, ESTATE issue
2015	'The Brushplay of an Artist'	EVOIST Korea
2014	Artist feature, p. 80	월간미술 Monthly Art, Vol. 355, June
2014	'REST廊: An Exhibition for Comfort and Healing'	Hankyung 한국경제, 8 June
2014	Artist of the Month feature	Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture
2013	'Renaissance Man Awakening from Winter Sleep'	Culture Seoul 문화서울, February
2009	'A Lone Pine Standing Undaunted'	Kookje Shinmun 국제신문, 3 June
2009	'Figuration and Abstraction in Ink Lines'	Busan Ilbo 부산일보, 3 June

REPRESENTATION

United Kingdom	KOUM Partners, London. Exclusive, 2026 to present.
South Korea	Limited project partnership under an arts management grant, to 2027. No authority over international exhibitions.

'I approach the act of painting as play, a form of contemplation without destination. The brush finds what the eye alone cannot. Through accumulation of time, of line, of silence, form emerges not from what is added but from what remains.'

Park Kyoung Mug, 2025

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