

# KYUNG HWA SHON

WINNER OF THE 2015 SOLO AWARD

WW CONTEMPORARY ART

STAND P31 ART PROJECTS, LONDON ART FAIR

20 - 24 JANUARY 2016



## KYUNG HWA SHON - THE CITY OF FRAGMENTS

WW Contemporary Art presents Kyung Hwa Shon, winner of the 2015 SOLO Award, selected by Sarah Monk (Director London Art Fair), Danielle Arnaud (Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art), Fedja Klikovac (Handel Street Projects), Amba Sayal-Bennett (winner 2014 SOLO Award), and panel chair Chiara Williams (Director WW Contemporary Art).

*"Stillman was gone now. The old man had become part of the city. He was a speck, a punctuation mark, a brick in an endless wall of bricks [...] Everything has been reduced to chance, a nightmare of numbers and probabilities. There were no clues, no leads, no moves to be made."*  
The New York Trilogy; City of Glass, Paul Auster, p.91

With her two new works, 'The City of Fragments', a large floor-based sculpture and 'The Trace of Stillman' an engraved mirror, Kyung Hwa Shon explores the reciprocal relationship between a city and the imagination, through the eyes of a city phantom called 'Stillman'. The stencilled and engraved texts describe the personal psychological reactions and observations made while chasing Stillman's traces. The work could perhaps be approached in the same way as the reader confronts the complex and shifting web of characters, identities and narratives in Paul Auster's postmodern meta-detective story 'City of Glass', to which Kyung Hwa Shon here refers.

There are no fixed questions and no final answers. 'The City of Fragments', (which itself is a stand-alone fragment of a vaster installation), is composed of copper sheets bearing stencilled text laid out on the floor. Some sheets of text are missing. It feels like the point may be missing. The uncovered, invisible remnants of 'Stillman' make the city a field of excavation where everything is buried, hidden, and remaining undiscovered.

The work implies the unfolding of an urban landscape into a distinct poetics of the city in which mythology, sign, symbol, voice, text, and trace occurs. The myriad ambiguous signs and markings of the street, the fragmented and specular images of shop-window displays, these are crucial signposts for the artist as she navigates the city through the prism of her imagination.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kyung Hwa Shon (born 1983) lives and works in London and Seoul. She is currently studying for a PhD in Painting at the Royal College of Art. Prior to this she obtained an MFA in Painting and Drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA and completed a BFA in Painting at Hong-ik University in Seoul, South Korea. She also studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France. After her MFA, she became a Starr Scholar at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, UK.

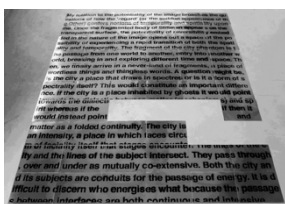


Shon has shown her work internationally at Royal Academy of Arts (UK), Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Posco Art Museum and SeoungNam Arts Centre (Korea), Korean Cultural Service New York (USA), Cozinha Gallery at the University of Porto (Portugal), and Korean Cultural Centre, (UK).

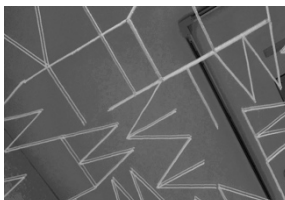
Recent exhibitions include 'UK/RAINE', Saatchi Gallery, London, UK, 2015; 'Mindful Mindless', Seoul Olympic Museum of Art (SOMA), Seoul, Korea, 2015; 'Uncovered Invisible Remnants', University of Porto, Portugal, 2015; 'You never look at me from the place which I see you', Blyth Gallery, Imperial College, London, UK, 2015; 'The Great Artist', Posco Art Museum, Seoul, Korea, 2015; 'Why Would I lie?', Research Biennial, Royal College of Art, London, UK, 2015. Concurrent to her presentation at the London Art Fair, Shon also has a solo exhibition at Alternative Space Loop in Seoul, Korea, in 2016. Shon is recipient of numerous prizes, most recently the Solo Award and the Alternative Space Loop Art Prize.

More information: [www.kyunghwashon.com](http://www.kyunghwashon.com)

## LIST OF WORKS



***The City of Fragments*, 2015**  
Sculpture (fragment of an installation)  
Text on copper sheets,  
300 x 252cm  
POA



***The Trace of Stillman* (detail), 2015**  
Engraved mirror  
121 x 140 x 0.6cm  
POA

Further works and drawings available to view on request



## ABOUT THE SOLO AWARD

The SOLO Award is an annual contemporary art prize established by WW in 2012, which recognises independent thinking, going it alone and taking risks. It is open to artists of any age, working in any medium. The winner receives a cash prize and a solo exhibition at the London Art Fair.

The selection panel looks for artists who are not afraid to stand out from the crowd, artists with the strength and foresight to buck the trend and create work that is truly avant-garde. The SOLO Award recognises that artists can be producing outstanding work at any age and any stage of their career and therefore welcomes submissions from anyone aged 18 - 108.

Each year, the SOLO Award invites a fresh, independent panel of art world professionals to choose their winner. Previous judges have included: Danielle Arnaud, Fedja Klikovac, Sarah Monk, Kate Brindley, Cherry Smyth, Lisa Milroy, Alison Wilding, Charlotte Mullins, Ceri Hand, Gill Saunders, Sheila McGregor, Helen Sumpter, Kate Davis and Deb Covell.

The SOLO Award 2016 call for entries is now open online:  
[www.wilsonwilliamsgallery.com/solo-2016.html](http://www.wilsonwilliamsgallery.com/solo-2016.html)

### PREVIOUS WINNERS

2014 winner Amba Sayal-Bennett: [www.ambasb.com](http://www.ambasb.com)

2013 winner Laura Fitzgerald: [www.laurafitzgeraldfrominch.com](http://www.laurafitzgeraldfrominch.com)

2012 winner Jonathan Gabb: [www.axisweb.org/p/jonathangabb](http://www.axisweb.org/p/jonathangabb)

### ABOUT WW

WW is a contemporary art gallery, now focused on consultancy and a limited number of specialist annual projects, such as the SOLO Award.

Established in 2008, WW built a reputation as one of London's leading contemporary artist-run spaces, curating consistently forward-thinking and innovative projects, totalling over 65 exhibitions and projects during its first 6 years, including collateral UK exhibitions at the 53rd & 54th Venice Biennales. During this time it represented 8 artists and supported the work of more than 300 artists, curators and writers through exhibitions, exchanges, collaborations, residencies, off-site projects, commissions, talks and publications.

More information: [www.wilsonwilliamsgallery.com](http://www.wilsonwilliamsgallery.com)