

# HAYWARD GALLERY

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## Press Release

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**Images are available to download [here](#)**

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## Heecheon Kim: Double Poser

1 December 2023 - 7 January 2024



Installation view of *Heecheon Kim: Double Poser* at the Hayward Gallery. Photo: Mark Blower, all rights reserved. Courtesy the artist and the Hayward Gallery.

From 1 December 2023 - 7 January 2024, the Hayward Gallery presents ***Heecheon Kim: Double Poser***, the first UK exhibition of South Korean artist and filmmaker Heecheon Kim. Developed in collaboration with Seoul's Art Sonje Center, the exhibition presents a new moving image commission alongside existing video work, exploring how technology affects our perception of the world.

Recently awarded the 2023 Hermès Foundation Missulsang Art Prize - cementing the artist as one of the leading emerging artistic voices in Korea - Kim's work often conflates virtual and physical realms, considering how our bodies, memories, emotions, identities, physical experiences and, particularly, the banality of daily life are constructed and represented in digital space.

In his video works, Kim manipulates both filmed and found footage in ways that challenge our habitual manner of processing visual and sensory information, using technology such as GPS, augmented reality, virtual reality and face-swap applications. Additionally, in an effort to destabilise conventional storytelling, Kim deploys techniques of looping and repetition to create ambiguous and, at times, decidedly nonsensical narratives.

For his new commission ***Double Poser*** (2023) at the Hayward Gallery, Kim reinterprets components from his previous work ***Cutter III*** (2023), which was originally created for his exhibition ***Game Society*** at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul. This new project takes inspiration from the brutalist architecture of the Hayward Gallery and brings together elements of computer-generated imagery, video game aesthetics and skateboarding culture. The work is created using a “game engine” which is a software platform for developing video games. Taking real-world locations as found objects and placing them in speculative scenarios, this video also draws on Kim’s background in architecture.

An existing video work, ***Deep in the Forking Tanks*** (2019), also features in the exhibition. Commissioned and produced by Art Sonje Center, this video explores the ways in which bodily senses can be transformed by technologies. The 43 minute video was inspired by the experience of being immersed in a sensory deprivation tank and scuba diving in underwater caves. Much like the sensation of being submerged in total darkness, the work’s structure is designed to create a disorienting effect, leading viewers through different stages of altered perception, from confusion to acute awareness. This is achieved through the overlaying of images and sounds to blend the boundaries between the real world and the realm of perception.

**Heecheon Kim** says: *“I am honoured to have the chance to introduce my recent video pieces at the Hayward Gallery. Living and working in Seoul, I am very much looking forward to knowing about the new audiences in London and having conversations with them.”*

**Yung Ma, Senior Curator of the Hayward Gallery**, says: *“Heecheon Kim has created worlds that reflect how the reality of our mundane existence is mirrored in the digital sphere. His works are expressions of an absurdist viewpoint that embraces yet questions our obsession and trust in advanced technologies.”*

**Je Yun Moon, Project Director of the Art Sonje Center**, says: *“We are delighted to collaborate with the distinguished team at the Hayward Gallery to introduce Heecheon Kim to London audiences for the first time. His videos empathise with our feeling of helplessness, while offering a playful escape.”*

This exhibition is a part of Korean Season 2023. Korean Season 2023 is hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (Korea) and organised by KOFICE (Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange) and KCCUK (Korean Cultural Centre UK).

**Across the run of *Heecheon Kim: Double Poser*, the Hayward Gallery also presents *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Machine* from 11 October 2023 to 7 January 2024. Please find the full press release [here](#).**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Heecheon Kim

Heecheon Kim 's solo exhibitions include "Deep in the Forking Tanks" (2019) at Art Sonje Center in Seoul, "Lifting Barbells" (2018) at Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, "HOME" (2017) at Doosan Gallery in Seoul, and "Wall Rally Drill" (2015) at Common Center in Seoul. He has participated in group exhibitions across Asia and Europe, such as the Julia Stoschek Collection, Germany (2022), MMCA (2021) in South Korea, ZKM (2019) in Germany, MCAD (2019) in the Philippines, Gwangju Biennale (2018), Istanbul Biennale (2017) at Istanbul Modern, and more.

### **About the Hayward Gallery**

The Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

### **About the HENI Project Space**

Since opening in 2007, the HENI Project Space at the Hayward Gallery has presented free exhibitions from a wide-ranging group of innovative international artists, including many UK premieres. Over the past 15 years, the HENI Project Space has served as a crucial portal of cross-cultural connection, featuring artists from five continents and over 40 different countries.



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