

Arario Gallery Seoul, LEE Jihyun's Solo Exhibition "Red Scene"

- A solo exhibition by LEE Jihyun revealing the development of the artist's practice over the past ten years.
- Presenting 'Red Scene', a large-scale painting series in which a mixture of fragmented memories and reality are layered, along with 'Fantasma', a series which captures the immediate thoughts of the artist.
- Inducing recollection of spectators' memories by introducing the installation of dolls and objects visualizing the concept of 'Red Scene'.



LEE Jihyun, *Summer Garage_Kronborg*, 2020, Oil on canvas, 229 x 177.7 cm

Title	Red Scene
Date	17 March – 29 May 2022
Location	ARARIO GALLERY SEOUL (Temporary Exhibition Space: B1, Arario Museum in Space, 83, Yulgok-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul, South Korea)
Exhibited Works	Paintings & Installation works
Opening Time	TUE – SUN, 11:00 – 18:00 (Closed on Mondays)

Arario Gallery Seoul is pleased to present *Red Scene*, a solo exhibition by LEE Jihyun (b. 1979). Before the inauguration of the new space in the Autumn of 2022, the exhibition will take place at the temporary exhibition space, the basement of Arario Museum in Space. The most striking aspect of LEE Jihyun's artworks lie in the layers that offer visual pleasure as a result of the interplay between juxtaposition and collision. As an added charm, each strata stands closely tied to the labyrinthine paths of LEE's own memory. Her earliest childhood memory, LEE notes, goes back to her mother's kitchen where the family would spend many an hour together. As a foundational component of LEE's practice, the motif of mixed memories has developed into a unique concept donned the 'Red Scene' in its instantiation through the specific mechanism of her mother's kitchen enveloped in a remarkable shade of red. Having served as an anchoring force that bookended LEE's life as an immigrant for the past decade, the memories of her mother's kitchen marks the point of departure for *Red Scene*.

For LEE, the 'Red Scene' is at once a symbolic presentment of and mechanism for summoning remembered or forgotten memories back to the realm of reality through either willful or unconscious measures. In the exhibition, LEE presents paintings and doll objects that both directly and indirectly visualize this concept, along with a small-size painting series entitled 'Fantasma'. The red spaces that intermittently appear throughout the exhibition serve as a boundary between the viewers and the spaces within the paintings; blending reality and fiction, the virtual and the actual, and past and present. Smaller paintings—which illustrate the fleeting thread of reveries that emerge in the process of creating larger works—are intentionally interspersed among the pieces that showcase the 'Red Scene'. This curatorial setting demonstrates LEE's distinct artistic method and reflective thought process that incessantly seizes and connects the links between memories and musings at random.

Should each of the paintings be seen as an invitation to the memory spaces that are mediated through the 'Red Scene'; then the doll objects, which LEE debuts in this exhibition may be

understood as the physical embodiment of mnemonic routinization. Since becoming a mother herself, LEE began to make dolls as her mother once had, in an effort to gather and extend her collection of materialized memories, piece by piece. Sewing up cotton fillings and overlaying them with watercolor, LEE repeats the process of doll-making in her three-dimensional production. The doll objects—along with drawings on ceramics, watercolor on embroidered frames, and sundry items from her personal collection—are exhibited in display cases that encapsulate the accumulation of LEE's memories. This assemblage of ordinary objects light the fuse to rekindle not only LEE's private remembrances but also the viewers' personal, or even collective memories.

LEE Jihyun received her BFA and MFA from Sungshin Women's University (Seoul, Korea) and MFA from School of Visual Arts (New York, USA). Since her first group exhibition in 2000, the artist has participated in a number of international exhibitions across various countries such as Japan, Switzerland, and the USA. She has held a total of nine solo exhibitions at Arario Gallery, Doosan Gallery, Gallery Hyundai and Gallery Sun Contemporary. LEE's works are featured in institutional collections including the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and Arario Museum. She currently lives and works in the USA.

[Inquiries]

PARK Minjin M. 010 9765 1719 / E. minjin.park@arariogallery.com

Dir. KANG Sojung M. 010 9256 1491 / E. sojung.kang@arariogallery.com



LEE Jihyun, *Red Scene_Glyptotek*, 2020, Oil on canvas, 243.8 x 182.4 cm



LEE Jihyun, *Red Scene_Parts*, 2020, Oil on canvas, 91.2 x 242.8 cm