

## Line, Curve, A Colorful Gesture

Press Release

Hoh Woo Jung  
Line, Curve, A Colorful Gesture  
April 4 - May 4, 2019

Gallery Baton presents Line, Curve, A Colorful Gesture, a solo exhibition by Hoh Woo Jung (b. 1987), from April 4<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Hoh's work begins with ambiguous and philosophical sentences combining abstract words and reflections of different states of objects. In his work, various different objects and figures unite, eventually arriving at a state of balance. Such images combining elements of uncertainty, tension, balance and imbalance function as a mechanism through which the artist portrays a sense of anxiety, emptiness and desolateness one habitually confronts in contemporary society.



Air in Tires, 2019, oil and pencil on canvas, 162 x 130cm

The actual forms of objects have been removed in Hoh's recent work in which the compositions are constructed solely with lines and curves. Surprisingly, such extreme simplicity invites the viewer deeper into the work clarifying the subordinate relationship between the subjects. The balance of weight on the lower part of the composition suggests that it is a space where in the familiar laws of physics are in effect, and the precarious lines and curves represent one's disturbing emotions disguised underneath the false comfort of worldly goods symbolizing the will to maintain an automatic balance.

**GALLERY BATON**

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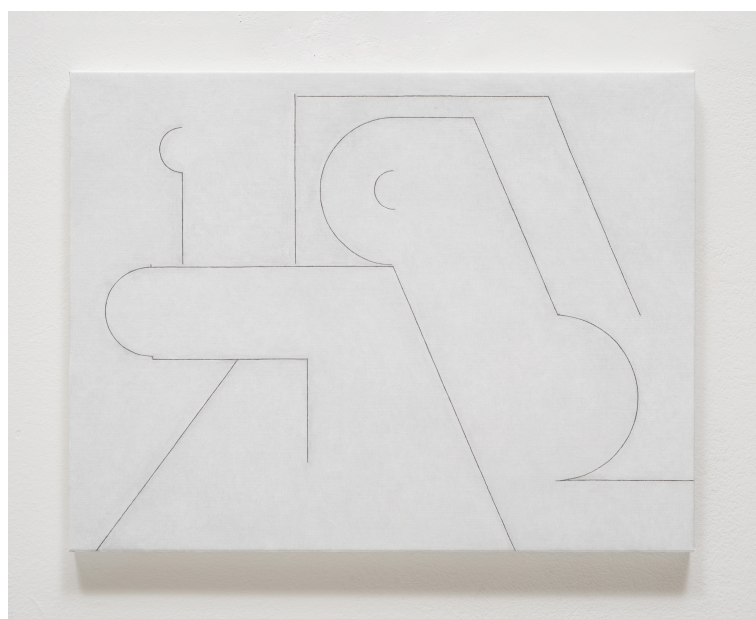
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In *Line, Curve, A Colorful Gesture*, Hoh's first solo exhibition at Gallery Baton, he has left the gravity-dominated space to entered the sphere of a nondirectional space. Instead of the assembly of individual images organically flowing toward designated places, the movements and murmuring of segmented clusters freely float around forming into shapes when needed.

In *Air in Tires* (2019), the lines and curves frame the canvas as if to hold back the small semicircles and freely-bent curves that seem to be waiting to infinitely circulate or bounce off the picture plane. They lurk behind like artificial satellites that would shoot out everywhere in universe the moment they deviate from Earth's gravitational field.



A and B, 2019, oil, pencil on canvas, 41 x 53 cm

W. Kandinsky (1866-1944) stated that lines and planes take their own unique color tones and temperature according to the way they are put together. He asserted the level, direction and reverberation of tension inherent in each line determine its intrinsic colors. In his theory, horizontal lines tend to be cold, tinted in black and have bluish temperature while vertical lines tend to be warm, tinted in white and emit yellow. He continued on to say that the 'angular line' made of the two lines takes on yellowish, reddish and purplish hues depending on whether the angle of the two lines is an acute, right or obtuse angle. In this regard, the sum of the lines and curves in each of Hoh's work is not just random gathering of frail lines thinly drawn on white canvas, but are a key medium where each of the lines is in charge of a different chroma and demonstrates its own distinct color. Lines with obtuse angles appropriating the formal characteristic of the alphabet 'A' are repeated in *A and B* (2019) where white colors made of vertical lines throughout the canvas stand out and the entire canvas is dominated by a purple tone. Variations of circles and right angles appear repeatedly in *Imagination Builds the House* (2019), where reds and blues, colors relative to purple, are dispersed throughout the entire canvas imbuing the work with an acute sense of tension.

Despite his young age, Hoh's extensive methodological exploration of the coexistence between oil painting and drawing has expanded to the visual reverberation and potential in the minimum units of the pictorial elements such as lines, curves and shapes. This exhibition presents a feast of brilliant colors, emanating from his unique achromatic works.

Hoh Woo Jung received his BFA, MFA and Post-diplôme from École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-art, Paris. He has held solo exhibitions at Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art Project Gallery, Ansan (2017) and Cheongju Art Creation Studio, Cheongju (2018) and has participated in group exhibitions at Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan (2017) and Groupe d'Art Contemporain d'Annonay, Annonay (2013). He is the recipient of the Young Artist Prize from the Association Jung-Hun Mecenat (2014).