

BOOMOON

CELESTIAL

September 15th - November 4th, 2023

49 Tung Street, Sheung Wan

Preview: Thursday 14 September, 6-8pm

press@flowersgallery.com
www.flowersgallery.com

The sky has been a consistent subject matter in Boomoon's work since the 1980s. This exhibition will spotlight three photographic series by the artist exploring the sky as a philosophical canvas for reflection on the human condition, presenting photographs from the late 1990s to the present.

Three light boxes from the *Stargazing* series created in the early 2000s document the skyscape in Sockcho, (Gangwon Province, Korea). The tactile material quality of light shining through the cibachrome transparencies captures the presence of the seemingly infinite space in which Boomoon found each image.

One monochromatic photograph from the series *On the Clouds* (1997 - 2003) offers an alternative perspective of the sky taken from a high altitude. Unlike other works from the series, in which intersections of deep blue sky and white clouds create the impression of a horizon line, the ubiquitous composition of this work creates an experimental space, placing the viewer closer to the stars, leading towards infinity. The photograph itself mirrors the body of the viewer back to themselves, creating a meditative space for self-reflection.



Boomoon, *Celestial_Virgo* #0616, 2023
180 x 140 cm, Archival pigment print,
Edition of 6

Referring to Boomoon's work, the poet and critic Shino Kuraishi wrote:

'The photographs construct an encounter for the beholders with themselves, wherever they may be, to reflect on the place they are in now, so the location is "nowhere." Or, as was the case with On the Clouds, it is a universal "anywhere." And, as far as the photographs place.' I have no other place to be. But without it belonging to me whatsoever, I look at it, I am here.'
photographs deflate the self-importance of the viewer into solitude, they are always "just one place." For me, there is only "this place." I have no other place to be. But without it belonging to me whatsoever, I look at it, I am here.'

Celestial, the most recent series by Boomoon was created over the last three years, during a period of immense self-reflection. Stationed in his garden in Sokcho, Boomoon meticulously observed the changing light in the night sky, waiting for what he has described as "gifts of images from the cosmos". The images are then collaged to compose his viewpoint over a period of time, reflecting the journey of the light travelling through the camera lens. This body of work is a return after 20 years to look at what is beyond the natural landscape surrounding us, embracing what Boomoon terms "the dystopian light above" as a field to further expand our cognitive and philosophical engagement with the present.



(Left to right)

Boomoon, *On the Clouds* #3717, 2007
Chromogenic print face mounted to Diasec
120 x 84 x 2.5 cm
Edition of 6

Boomoon, *Stargazing at Sokcho* #13, 2001
Cibachrome transparency Lightbox in artist frame
55 x 80 x 10 cm

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Daegu, Boomoon lives and works in Sokcho, South Korea. Having commenced his artistic studies as a painter, Boomoon began to explore photography in the early 1970s and enrolled in the Photography department at Chung-Ang University, Seoul. Since the 1980s he has been engaging with the natural landscape in his work as a means of self-reflection, producing large format photographs of vast expanses of sea, sky and land. Devoid of human presence, the central emphasis of his work is the experience of the infinity of nature and the representation of its presence.

Boomoon has exhibited widely internationally, including South Korea, Japan and major cities such as Paris, London and New York. His work is in the collections of the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, (MMCA) Seoul, South Korea; Leeum, Seoul; Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan; and Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul, Turkey. From October 2013 to January 2014, a retrospective exhibition of Boomoon's major landscape series was held at the Daegu Art Museum in South Korea.

For more information and images please contact:

Echo Guo: echo@flowersgallery.com or press@flowersgallery.com

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm

Notes to Editors

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