

GUILD GALLERY

HYUNSUNG CHO

July 31– September 2, 2023

Opening Reception: Monday, July 31, 6-8pm



Hyunsung Cho, Guild Gallery, 2023.

Guild Gallery is pleased to present the first solo New York exhibition of Hyunsung Cho, a Korean artist known for his work with glass. Over the past two decades, Cho has mastered the art of glassblowing, creating elegantly crafted vases that push the boundaries of this centuries-old practice. For this exhibition, Cho will present a series of 32 new Veronese vases—glass vessels first inspired by one depicted in Italian Renaissance artist Paolo Veronese’s 16th-century painting, “The Annunciation to the Virgin.” Varying in scale, proportion, color, and form, these works combine traditional Murano glassmaking techniques with Korean iconography drawn from Cho’s heritage.

One of the few glass artists working in Korea today, Cho manipulates molten glass and organic elements from the earth using techniques of blowing, shaping, and coloring to create one-of-a-kind designs. Through his use of minimal forms and translucent color tones inspired by the natural landscape, Cho creates ethereal vessels that evoke a sense of purity and tranquility. He begins each work by sketching a vase on paper, which he then replicates through the glassblowing process. The contrast between the fragility of this medium and the extreme energy and strength required to blow the glass and control the fire is an ever-present dynamic in his practice.

The works in this exhibition, created over the past year in the artist’s glass studio in Seoul, reveal Cho’s unique style of glassmaking, which reinterprets the traditional Veronese vase through a Korean lens. Cho first became enamored with Murano glassmaking when he encountered a Veronese vase at the Corning Museum of Glass in New York and learned of its origin. Like the early Venetian glassblowers dating back to the 13th century,

Cho was attracted to this material because of its transcendent qualities, and was eager to learn the centuries-old techniques to master them himself in Korea.

Continuing to experiment with the Veronese form over the past decade, Cho has developed a signature style that is influenced by shapes seen in traditional Korean Moon Jars—porcelain vessels dating from the late Joseon period that are characterized by their evocative form. Like Moon Jars, Cho’s glass vases have a wider mouth and are tapered and slightly elongated towards the bases, giving the appearance that they are floating in the air. When viewed together, the works in this exhibition highlight the defining qualities of this ancient art form while expanding the possibilities and appreciation of this medium in the 21st century.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hyunsung Cho (b. 1975, Seoul, Korea) makes delicate, beautifully shaped goblets, glasses and vases in his glassblowing studio in Seoul. Trained in Korea and the U.S., Cho was first introduced to glass while studying at Namseoul University in Cheonan, Korea. He has continued to hone his practice as one of the foremost glassmakers in his native country, and received his second master’s degree in glass from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2010.

Cho’s work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions in Korean and American galleries and institutions, including the Glass Island Museum and the Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art in Korea, among others, and was also honored with a “Best in Show” at BIGG: Breakthrough Ideas in Global Glass sponsored by Steuben Glass.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Guild Gallery, founded by Robin Standefer and Stephen Alesch, and designed by Roman and Williams, is a natural extension of Roman and Williams Guild. The gallery celebrates the millennia-long legacy of the decorative arts through exhibitions of contemporary masters of their respective media. With a focus on natural material such as clay, wood, and stone, Guild Gallery celebrates artists and valuing utility in exquisite craftsmanship and form. Guild Gallery provides a platform to expertly showcase ideas and artists, creating a new dialogue between ancient and modern, fine art and design.

Website rwguildgalleryny.com

Instagram [@guildgallery](https://www.instagram.com/guildgallery)

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