

PRESS RELEASE

JINYONG PARK

Words and Numbers

23 September – 6 November 2023

We are proud to announce the first solo exhibition and the representation of Jinyong Park (°1990).

London-based South Korean artist Jinyong Park explores the transformation of everyday language into abstract symbols or image. Her fascination with how language shapes individuals and societies leads her to dissect words, delve into their etymology when possible, draw from personal memories, and respond to their phonetics. Her bilingualism often sparks playful connections between South Korean and English, creating a subtle wordplay. The meanings of her artworks' titles and their hieroglyphic associations are left for viewers to interpret actively.

Park highlights the intrinsic link between sound and visuals in the South Korean language, Hangeul, where characters mimic the oral cavity's shapes during pronunciation. She meticulously studies geometric elements on graph paper to create an embodied, sensory experience. This process mirrors the arrangement of Hangeul's geometric characters in syllabic blocks. The tension between mathematical analysis and the act of painting mirrors the tension between linguistic structure and the physical act of speech.

"Words and Numbers" Park's debut solo exhibition at Stephane Simoens Contemporary Fine Art, showcases her latest body of work. It transforms the spaces, both physical and emotional, within and between words into methodical paintings.

Since her relocation from Seoul to London in 2013, Park has integrated her linguistic experiences into her art. This transition prompted a period of assimilation and self-discovery, turning her limitations as a non-native speaker into sources of inspiration. She redefined her perception of language from a complete system to an object of experience and social composition deeply intertwined with each society's history, culture, and politics. Her abstract hieroglyphs occupy a unique space, acting as mediators of her experiences and bridging the gap between two language systems. Many of her works confront the neglect of language, exposing outdated stereotypes and unconscious biases.