

Press Release

Pilar Corrias Presents

Koo Jeong A: Magnet Cities

17 May - 16 June 2018

PV: Wednesday 16 May 2018, 6 - 8pm



Koo Jeong A, *Untitled*, 2018, Magnetic paint, acrylic paint, magnetic filings on canvas.

Pilar Corrias is pleased to present Koo Jeong A's solo exhibition, *Magnet Cities*, which represents a culmination of the artist's ten-year exploration into the formal, conceptual, medicinal and architectural properties of ferrite magnets. This ongoing series was initiated from Koo's experiences meeting and conversing with Dr. Koo Bon Sea in Korea and English architect, Cedric Price. Each of these individuals focuses their own investigations into the possibilities of magnets and magnet fields. The artist's experience meeting these two individuals became the trajectory for her own exploration into the conceptual potential of magnets and the employment of magnets as a sculptural medium.

This series of works evolved through the artist's research into Cedric Price's unrealized project, *Magnet* (1997), which employed 'anticipatory architecture', where public amenities would stimulate patterns of public movement. Magnets for Price function as a conceptual framework and metaphor for thinking about city planning and for emancipating destitute architectural sites. This conceptual thinking about magnetic fields, enacted by Price influenced Koo to examine and think critically about the formal properties of magnets themselves.

Koo's various magnet sculptures and reliefs are all made from pre-cut sized magnets, they are generic and can be purchased by anyone. By employing these standard sized, easily accessible magnets, Koo, like Cedric Price began her work through an examination of that which is overlooked or abandoned. These commonplace magnets are arranged and manipulated by the artist, as she tests and ultimately illuminates the creative capacities within this seemingly basic material.

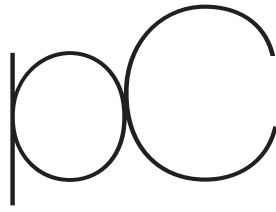
These work begins with a set number of ferrite magnets. It is the number of magnets that dictate the way in which the sculptures and reliefs are arranged and constructed. Influenced by the theories of Pythagoras, the artist approaches these works where the number is the ruler of form and idea and is the trajectory for how she thinks about and produces the works. While the artist has arranged all the pieces specifically, they can be re-arranged into various alternative configurations. By leaving the capabilities of this material open to manipulation, the artist is uniquely gesturing to the powerful kinetic faculties that exist within this medium.

Many of these magnet sculptures have been painted in a hammered blue and constructed into walls and grids. Positioning and displaying the magnets in this way signifies the artist's fascination with the force and power of this material. The paintings that Koo has created throughout this series involve applying a layer of magnetic paint underneath a solid primary colour and then smashing her magnets to produce a series of shards. These shards are then placed onto the painted canvases. Like the flexible layouts of the sculptures, the magnet shards on these paintings can also be moved around or re-arranged.

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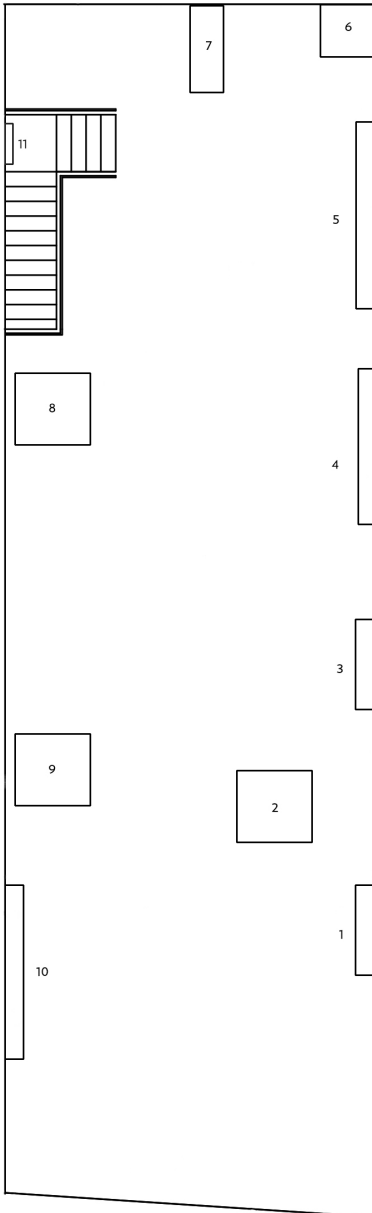
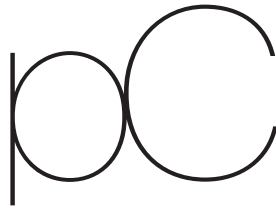
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Since the early 1990s, Koo Jeong A has made works that are seemingly casual and commonplace, yet at the same time remarkably precise, deliberate, and considered. Her reflections on the senses and the body incorporate objects, still and moving images, audio elements, and aromas. Many of her works are conceived within site-specific environments that question the limits of fact and fiction, the imaginary and actuality of our world. Koo considers the connection of energies between a place and people, relying on chance to drive her encounters.

Koo Jeong A was born in 1967 in Seoul, Korea. She has been named '2016 Artist of the Year' by the Korean Cultural Centre UK, celebrated with a solo exhibition in London in October 2016. Recent solo exhibitions and commissions of her work include: ajeongkoo, Art Sonje Center, Seoul (2017); Enigma of Beginnings, Yuz Project Room at Yuz Museum, Shanghai (2016); Koo Jeong A x Wheelscape: Evertro, Everton Park, Liverpool (2015); Annual Journey, Pilar Corrias, London (2015); Oussier, Fondazione La Raia, Novi Ligure (2014); Koo Jeong A: 16:07, Kunsthalle, Dusseldorf (2012); OTRO, Centre international d'art et du paysage de Vassivière, Vassivière (2011); E opened his eyes he is now walking, CCA KITAKYUSHU Project Gallery, Kitakyushu (2011); Constellation Congress, DIA Art Foundation, Dia:Beacon, Beacon, The Dan Flavin Art Institute, Bridgehampton (2010); Koo Jeong A, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2008); Flash Cube at Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul (2007).

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1.

Untitled, 2018

Magnetic paint, acrylic paint, magnetic filings
on canvas
40 x 30 x 2.5 cm/15 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 1 in

2.

3/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet and Portland stone
16 x 35 x 35 cm/6 1/4 x 13 3/4 x 13 3/4 in
1700 magnets

3.

Untitled, 2018

Magnetic paint, acrylic paint, magnetic filings
on canvas
40 x 30 x 2.5 cm/15 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 1 in

4.

9/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet
46 x 46 x 0.3 cm/18 1/8 x 18 1/8 x 1/8 in
25 magnets

5.

10/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet
70 x 100 cm/27 1/2 x 39 3/8 in
70 magnets

6.

12/2018, 2018

Ferrite Magnet
150 x 10 x 10 cm/59 1/8 x 4 x 4 in
75 magnets

7.

8/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet
78 x 10 x 10 cm/30 3/4 x 4 x 4 in
108 ring magnets

8.

4/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet and Portland stone
31.5 x 40 x 70 cm/12 3/8 x 15 3/4 x 27 1/2 in
4250 magnets

9.

5/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet and Portland stone
13 x 30 x 50 cm/5 1/8 x 11 3/4 x 19 3/4 in
180 magnets

10.

11/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet
40 x 146 x 0.3 cm/15 3/4 x 57 1/2 x 1/8 in
480 magnets

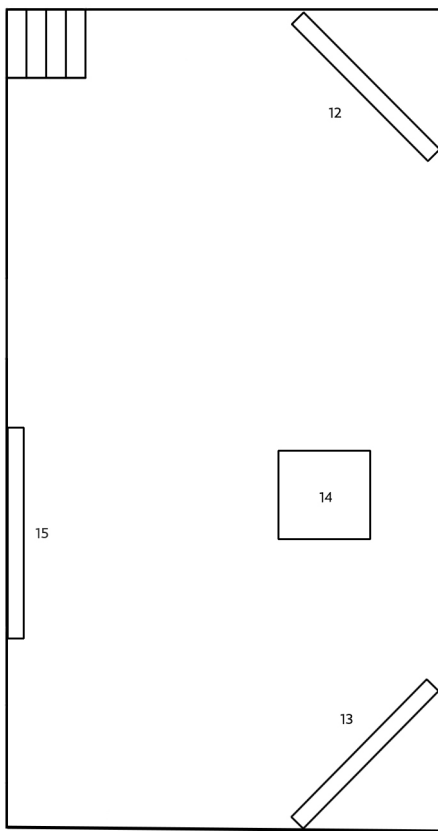
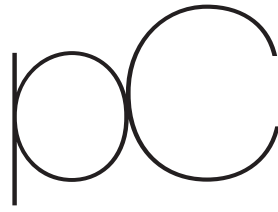
11.

Untitled, 2018

Magnetic paint, acrylic paint, magnetic filings
on canvas
40 x 30 x 2.5 cm/15 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 1 in

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12.

2/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet

102.5 x 102.5 x 0.3 cm/40 3/8 x 40 3/8 x 1/8 in

800 magnets

13.

6/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet

102.5 x 102.5 x 0.3 cm/40 3/8 x 40 3/8 x 1/8 in

1156 magnets

14.

7/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet and Portland stone

15.5 x 40 x 40 cm/6 1/8 x 15 3/4 x 15 3/4 in

3120 magnets

15.

1/2018, 2018

Ferrite magnet

160 x 120.5 x 1 cm/63 x 47 1/2 x 3/8 in

560 magnets

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