Yang Soon-yeal : *Rhapsody in Red*

Curated by Soojung Hyun

November 1 – 21, 2018

Reception: Thursday, Nov. 8, 2 - 4 pm /6 - 8 pm

Artist Talk with Robert C. Morgan

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Gallery Days/Hours: Tuesday – Saturday; 12 - 6 pm

Ottogi-Dream & Mother, 2017, duralumin, Installation, each sculpture 39.3x 39.3x 84.6 (h) inches © G.Bastianelli

In her exhibition, *Rhapsody in Red*, Korean artist Yang Soon-yeal presents her recent painting, sculpture, and media installation. Despite the various visual mediums in which she works, the fundamental core of her show is a sculpture of a standing female figure. This highly simplified form with its rounded shape omits details of the human body. The sculpture consists of a weight inside the bottom hemisphere that it will make it return to an upright position when

tilted to one side. What Yang calls *Ottogi* (오뚝이) in Korean might be translated into English to mean a roly-poly toy or a tumbler doll.

The round-bottomed toy generally implies its ability to have success, overcome hardship, and recover from misfortune. While Yang's *Ottogi* may have the appearance of a tumbler doll, the symbolic image in her artwork has a more sophisticated meaning. Yang presents the sculpture as a symbolic image of Motherhood that holds a continuing grace and heightened spiritual understanding. The image of the *Ottogi* has naturally emerged in her work. *YS Museum of Art (2008 -2010)*, a magnificent painting that presents an ideal world of a woman who is painted without arms. In contrast to the negative point of view, she wanted the figure to represent the more optimistic view of women who once worked hard and now enjoy their freedom. Another image is from *Homo Sapiens* (2006-2013) in which she composed hundreds of small-size human figures cast in stainless steel. The two works of *Homo Sapiens* and *YS Museum* of Art are combined together and transmitted a stunning image, *Ottogi*. The visual character has been modified in a few times and was finalized as a refined image of the human body. While the work remarks on the role of woman and mother in relation to everyday life, *Ottogi* as a symbolic image of Motherhood pursues the profound question of human existence and leads us to feel the eternal love in the world of galaxies.

Ottogi-Dream & Mother, 2017, duralumin, Installation, each sculpture 39.3x 39.3x 84.6 (h) inches © G.Bastianelli

Yang Soon-yeal is a painter, sculptor, performer, and multimedia artist living in Seoul and Andong, South Korea. Yang has worked enthusiastically with all her heart and soul. The source of her work is deeply connected with her poetic sensitivity and insightful thoughts, which she implements in her art. Her show at the POSCO Gallery (2014) and the Gaekju Literary Space (2015) allowed Yang's liberation in her creative process as a record of the artist's self-driven purification. In addition, her artist's career has expanded internationally. In an important lecture at the Art Gallery of the University of Missouri, Yang emphasized the different roots in her work by distinguishing the Oriental spirit from that of the Western world. Yang's remarkable career continues to reinvent itself. This clearly became distinct in her exhibitions at the Hamelhuis in Gorinchem (2016), the Galerie Des Ami in Woudrichem (2017), and Kunstuitleen Alkmar (2017), all shown in various spaces in the Netherlands.