

HIONAS GALLERY

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Hionas Gallery in TriBeCa Announces Fall 2011 Lineup,
Beginning With

KISEOK KIM

PLASTICS

September 9 - 30, 2011

Opening reception: Thursday, Sept 8, 6-8PM

Followed by monthly solo exhibitions from **Tun Ping Wang**,
Melanie Vote and **Warwick Saint**



Kiseok Kim, Untitled (2010), acrylic and oil on canvas

New York, NY (July 27, 2011) - Hionas Gallery is pleased to announce its fall 2011 lineup of monthly solo exhibitions, beginning with *Plastics*, a show of new acrylic & oil paintings from Korean-born, Brooklyn-based artist **Kiseok Kim**. This will mark Kim's third solo gallery exhibition since moving to New York City in 2006, and his first with Hionas Gallery. An up-close-and-personal boldness characterizes each of Kim's large-scale portraits, which depict blush, fresh faces that come only from the artist's imagination. The gallery will be holding a public opening reception on **Thursday, September 8**, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Each of Kim's paintings is an untitled work, further contributing to the anonymity of his fictional female subjects, whose restrained glances evoke a sense of quiet despair, even empathy. Visual elements of anime, surrealism and color-field painting all leave their mark in Kim's work, yet can sometimes be overpowered by the hyper-real detailing of pouting lips, the skin's natural glow, and other facial markers that make these portraits both implausible and relatable. Accentuating the pristine beauty of each of his subjects is a juxtaposed backdrop of plucked flowers in bloom, Noland-esque targets, and other decorative visuals that recall apparel design patterns.

For *Untitled* (2010), seen above, Kim's subject is defined by her eyes, passive and floating, almost avian in their placement. Her head superimposed more so than in Kim's other portraits, and placed against a patterned backdrop of softly-rendered concentric hearts, the painting presents a fascinating convergence of fine detailing and the sense that this is a blank facial template on which to impose one's own narrative. According to the artist, "[Each] portrait does not render a specific person; the person in my work is an idealized being. I try to get rid of expression on the face so it looks almost frozen or static. In addition, its background is simple and no spatiality is suggested."

Following *Plastics*, Hionas Gallery's fall 2011 season will continue with solo exhibitions from Taiwanese realist & figurative artist **Tun Ping Wang** (Oct. 7 - 28), American portraitist **Melanie Vote** (Nov. 4 - 25), and South African photographer **Warwick Saint** (Dec. 2 - 30). More details on these shows will be announced shortly.

About the Artist:

Kiseok Kim (b. 1973) is originally from Busan, Korea, where he attended Dong-A University and earned his BFA in Painting. After moving to New York in 2006, Kim continued his formal training at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where he earned his MFA. His work has been included in over a dozen group exhibitions throughout New York City and a number of solo shows. Most recently Kim's work was included in Woodward Gallery's *20 in 11* group exhibition in the Lower East Side. This is Kim's first solo exhibition at Hionas Gallery.

About Hionas Gallery:

Hionas Gallery is a 500 sf. exhibition space located at 89 Franklin Street, in a classic TriBeCa storefront. The gallery invites contemporary and emerging artists, working in all variety of media, to participate in monthly solo exhibitions to showcase their latest work and artistic vision. The gallery space doubles as the storefront for the personal fitness studio, Peter Anthony Fitness, owned and operated by Peter Hionas. Over the years, Hionas has personally trained hundreds of celebrities and other high profile figures, including a number of artists and art world luminaries. This list includes the artists Marina Abramović, Terry Winters and Dan Colen, collector Adam Sender, architect David Rockwell, and P.S.1 founder Alanna Heiss, among many others.

Owners Peter and Maria Hionas officially opened the gallery in June 2011. "We have been avid collectors of contemporary art since 1991," says Peter Hionas. "It's a modest

storefront we have here, but also really spacious and versatile. I see us as operating in the tradition of the old Betty Parsons Gallery in midtown, or the original White Cube in St. James's; small spaces that just show great art.”

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