



Lee Sun-Kueng working in his studio in Seoul, 2010 / Courtesy Tornabuoni Art

## PRESS KIT

### LEE SUNG-KUEN

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Opening : Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

#### About the artist

As part of the France-Korea Year, Tornabuoni Art Paris dedicates an exhibition to this very special artist, from July 1st to September 10th, 2016. In the same way Tornabuoni Art promotes internationally known Italian artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the gallery aims to show the work of international and talented contemporary artists.

Tornabuoni Art works on a 4 exhibition per year program: two dedicated to Italian masters, a thematic show and a solo show where the gallery gives *carte blanche* to a contemporary artist.

Thus, the Korean artist Lee Sung-Kuen, discovered by Tornabuoni Art during his stay in Tuscany, already saw his works exhibited in 2010 at Tornabuoni Art Milan. Lee Sung-Kuen was born in Seoul in 1954, he has been teaching at the Department of Metal Art & Design of Hong-ik University (Seoul), since 1990. He is also Director of the Cultural Foundation of the National Museum of Korea in Seoul.

His works are held in the permanent collection of several great museums such as the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul, the Korean Cultural Center in Beijing, the Villa Romana in Florence, the McGuire Fine Art Center in Rhode Island, and the NIKKO and NHK in Tokyo. Also exhibited at the Posco Art Museum of Seoul or at the Milan Triennale, Lee Sung-Kuen's artworks penetrate space, harmonizing and animating their surroundings.

Lee Sung-Kuen's artworks take shape in a web of colourful steel wires extremely thin, almost invisible, creating geometric structures, circular or elliptical, delicate and ethereal. These organic structures and true visual performances also caused sensation at the exhibition "Korea Now! Craft, design, fashion and graphic design in Korean" at the Decorative Arts Museum in Paris, 2015.

*"Choosing void and scantiness to allude to massive volumes and quantity; choosing nothingness as the devoted champion of everything: this is what Lee Sung-Kuen does. And he does so without neglecting the minute horizon of the Eastern graphic tradition, because his approach to art echoes the ancient delicacy of the inks on paper, the preciousness of the Chinese alphabet, the candour of Japanese ceramics; it is the pursuit of sagacious manual skill, the lowliness of materials that are ordinary, even poor, certainly anything but precious or technological"* explains Fabio Migliorati, art critic.

# tornabuoniArt

PARIS



Installation view of the exhibition in Paris : *Bianco Italia*, 2013 / Courtesy Tornabuoni Art

## About the gallery

Tornabuoni Arte was founded in Florence in 1981 by Roberto Casamonti and is specialized in Italian art of the second half of the 20th Century. It established exhibition spaces in Milan in 1995, Portofino in 2001, Forte Dei Marmi in 2004, Paris in October 2009 and London in 2015.

Tornabuoni Art in Paris presents the work of **Fontana, Castellani, Manzoni, Dorazio, Bonalumi, Dadamaino** and **Boetti** together with the major protagonists of the Italian Novecento such as **De Chirico, Morandi, Balla, Severeni** and **Sironi**. The gallery also proposes works of essential artists of the 20th Century such as **Picasso, Mirò, Kandinsky, Hartung, Poliakoff, Dubuffet, Lam, Matta, Christo, Wesselmann, Warhol** and **Basquiat**.

Since inaugurating its Parisian space in 2009 with an exhibition dedicated to **Lucio Fontana**, Tornabuoni Art has organized numerous monographic exhibitions, always in close consultation with the artists or the foundations that represent them.

The gallery has shown the works of **Alighiero Boetti** (2010), **Arnaldo Pomodoro** (2011), **Enrico Castellani** (2011), **Mimmo Rotella** (2012), **Giuseppe Capogrossi** (2013), **Dadamaino** (2013), the exceptional exhibition «Lucio Fontana, rediscovery of a masterpiece» in parallel with the retrospective at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and more recently the first retrospective in France of **Turi Simeti** (2014), a retrospective of **Alberto Biasi** (2015), a solo show dedicated to **Giuseppe Chiari** (2015) and retrospectives of **Paolo Scheggi** (2015) and **Piero Dorazio** (2016).

Besides these solo shows, the gallery also presents group shows such as « The Monochrome Under Pressure » (2012), « Bianco Italia » (2013), « Between Sign and Writing: a path through Italian art » (2014), « Ceci n'est pas une idée » (2015) or « Roma Pop » (2016) brought together by different curators who are given carte blanche, each show offering a unique approach to the gallery's collection. The gallery has added a touch of contemporary art to the family tradition and love for Italian art, in particular with the artists **Francesca Pasquali** and **Mikayel Ohanjanyan**.

## Press contact

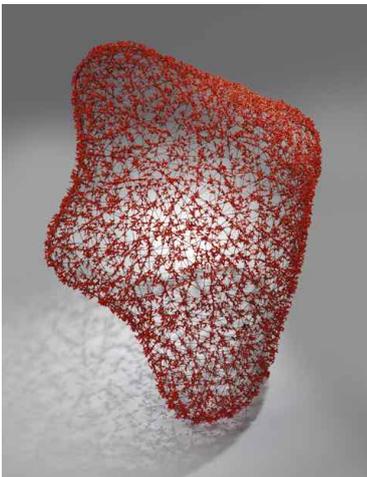
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## Gallery contact

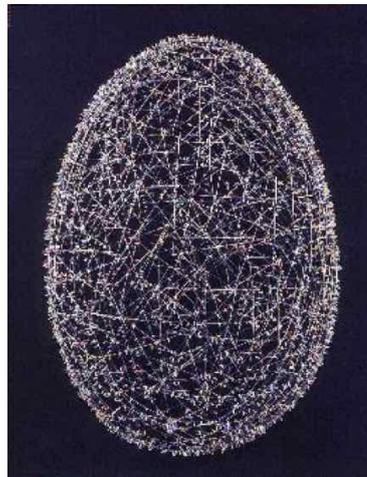
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For more information on the history of the gallery and its activity, please visit [www.tornabuoniart.fr](http://www.tornabuoniart.fr). Follow us on Twitter (@Tornabuoniart), Facebook (@TornabuoniArt), Instagram (@TornabuoniArt) via the hashtags #Lee-Sung-Kuen #TornabuoniArt and discover our videos on Vimeo (Tornabuoni Art).

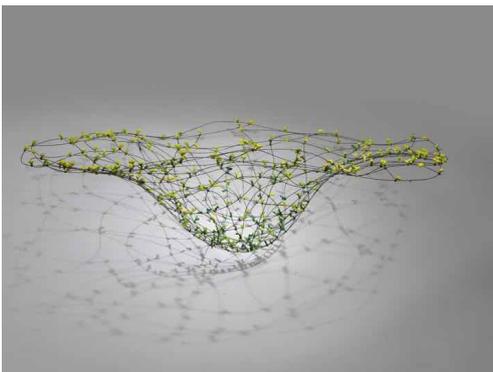
## Photos available for press



*Human+love+light - T09*, 2009  
Intertwined steel wires  
cm 80 x 50 x 30 / in 31.5 x 19.7 x 11.8  
Courtesy Tornabuoni Art



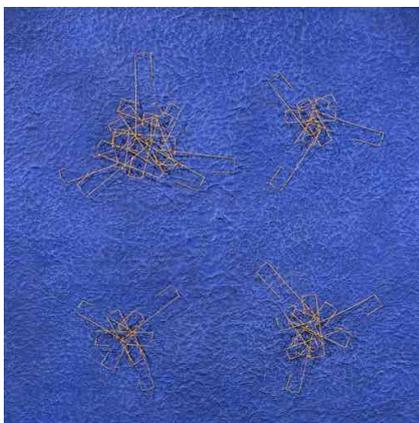
*Human+life+light I°*, 1999  
Intertwined steel wires  
cm 80 x 60 / in 31.5 x 23.4  
Courtesy Tornabuoni Art



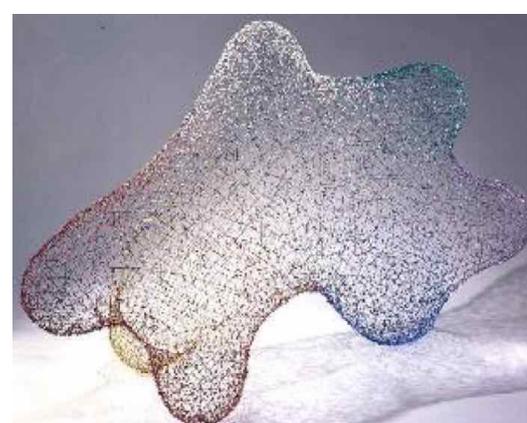
*Human+life+light - T10*, 2009  
Intertwined steel wires  
cm 12 x 90 x 90 / in 4.8 x 35.4 x 35.4  
Courtesy Tornabuoni Art



*Untitled*, 2000  
Intertwined steel wires  
cm 54 x 48 x 86 / in 21.2 x 18.9 x 33.9  
Courtesy Tornabuoni Art



*Human+life+light - 2004 M6*, 2004  
Steel wires on masonite  
cm 80 x 80 x 5 / in 31.5 x 31.5 x 2  
Courtesy Tornabuoni Art



*Untitled*, 2001  
Intertwined steel wires  
cm 110 x 160 x 70 / in 43.3 x 63 x 27.5  
Courtesy Tornabuoni Art