

friedrichs pontone

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for immediate release

Hwang Seontae: Living Light



The Space with Sunshine X, 2022

on view

2 - 26 November 2023

opening reception

2 November 6-8 pm



Friedrichs Pontone is delighted to present ***Living Light***, an exhibition by Korean artist Hwang Seontae. His work takes the form of the light box, constructed from layers of printed and etched glass, depicting beautifully delineated, contemporary interiors. The box has a self-contained light source which articulates the imagined scene.

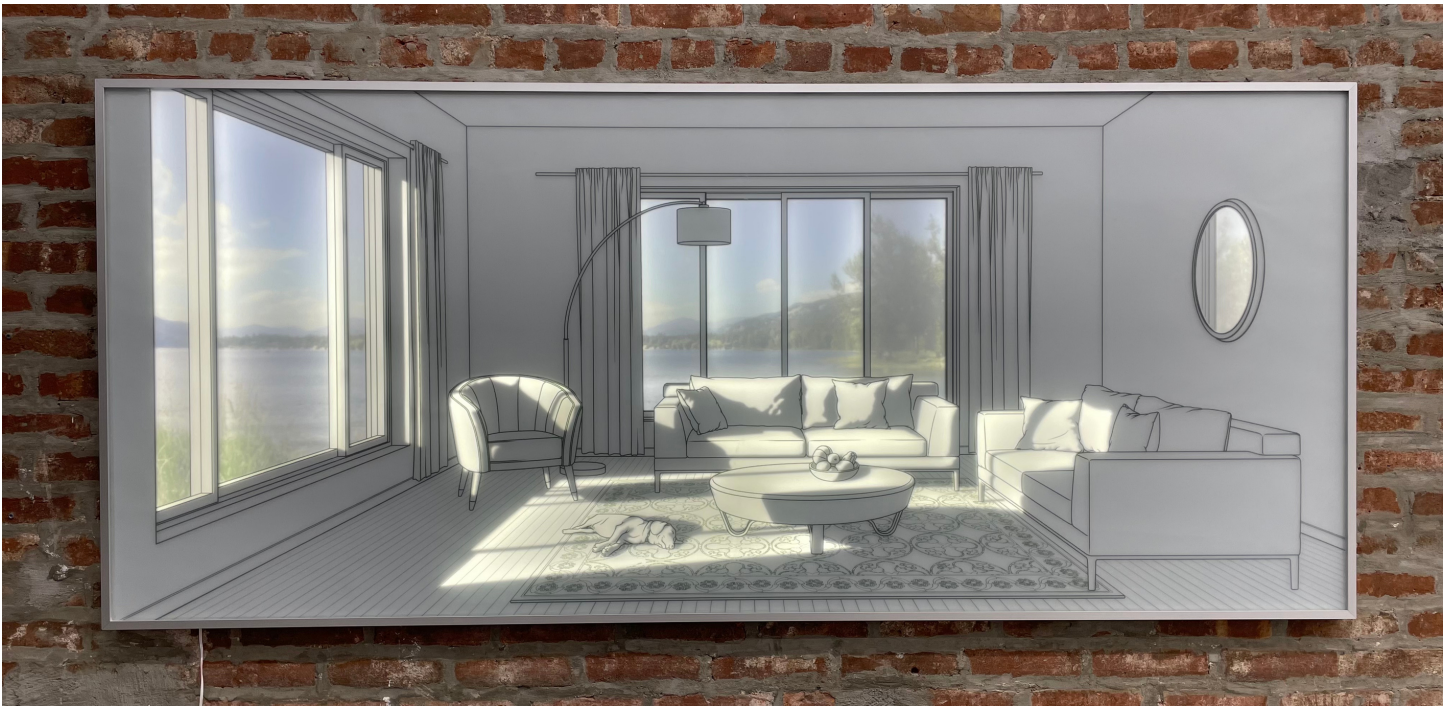
Through ***Living Light*** we see sunlight entering through windows, casting pools and patterns of illumination across silent spaces. In this mostly monochromatic world, there are hints of subtle color in the exterior glimpses of landscape and foliage. The sun's rays energize and bring life to the scene. Rooms are deserted but not abandoned; they are furnished and maintained. There is a sense of recent departure and/or imminent return.

This world is unpopulated. There is a sense of absence, or perhaps, imminent presence. These homes are not neglected or in decay, they betray no evidence of abandonment or disaster, but are nevertheless ambiguous. They are prepared for occupation and relaxation. All is ready: chairs, tables, and lamps are arranged, pictures are hung, and fruit and flowers are set in bowls and vases. They are perfectly staged backdrops for human activity. Where are the actors?

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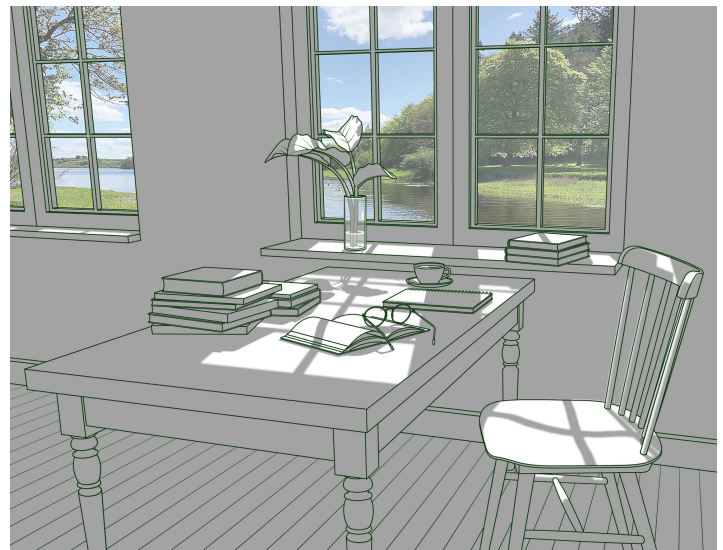
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Living Light invites us to concoct a story. What settings are these? Is it a dystopian dream world of inexplicable disappearance or, more prosaically, a homecoming, reunion, or familial confrontation? Drama springs out of what first appears anodyne and non-committal, a formal exercise in symmetry and harmonic arrangement. We can interpret these works as saying that sometimes, contrary to appearances, this is a far from frictionless existence. Our costly refuges, beautiful and soothing as they may be, are fragile holding pens for all the messy turmoil of our lives. In Seontae's work, this idea is illuminated and redeemed by the life force of the sun.



The Space with Sunshine II, 2022

Each installation seeks to uncover the latent potential of interior spaces, illuminating hidden dimensions that reveal a transcendence that lies dormant in our surroundings. Within these meditative environments, viewers find themselves transported into a liminal realm where time ceases its relentless march and the ordinary is infused with a sense of pensive serenity.



The Space with Sunshine IX, 2023

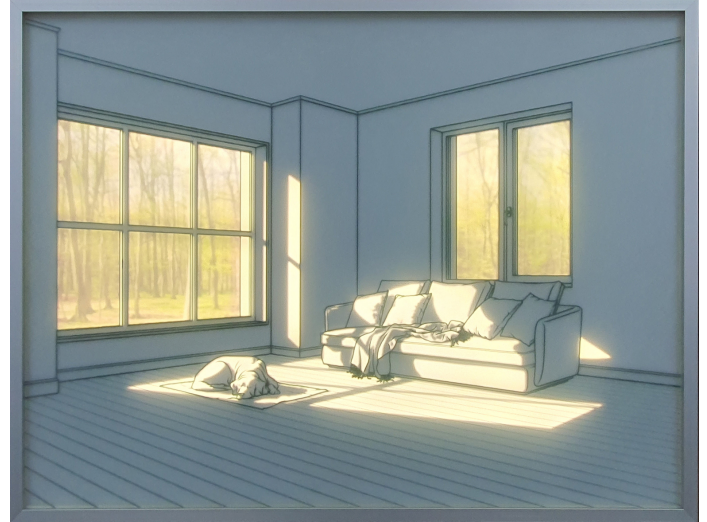
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Hwang Seontae

Hwang Seontae was born in South Korea in 1972. He studied fine art at Kyunghee University in South Korea and went on to train in Sculpture at Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle in Germany, where he completed his postgraduate study, specializing in Glass Art.

He has exhibited in South Korea, the United States, and the United Kingdom, where he continues to present breathtaking atmospheres through his work. His innovative fusion of art and technology allows Seontae orchestrates a sensory experience that invites us to pause and experience the profound beauty that lies in the interstices of our everyday existence.



The Space with Sunshine XIII, 2023

about friedrichs pontone

Friedrichs Pontone was established in 2022, opening its new flagship gallery space at 273 Church Street in the historic neighborhood of Tribeca, across from the Barnett Newman Triangle, dedicated to showcasing groundbreaking international artists across various mediums. With a commitment to fostering innovative and thought-provoking art, the gallery provides a platform for emerging and established talents to engage with diverse audiences.

Gallery founders Martin Friedrichs and Domenic Pontone bring a combined 40 years of experience to their new venture. Martin Friedrichs previously held the position of director at Galerie Gmurzynska US Inc. and Hollis Taggart. Domenic Pontone is the founder of Pontone Gallery London and director of The Albemarle Gallery London.



www.artsy.net/partner/friedrichs-pontone



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