

**Bernd Halbherr****Phantoms: Spirituality and Stories**

Hanmi Gallery Seoul | 5th May - 28th May 2016



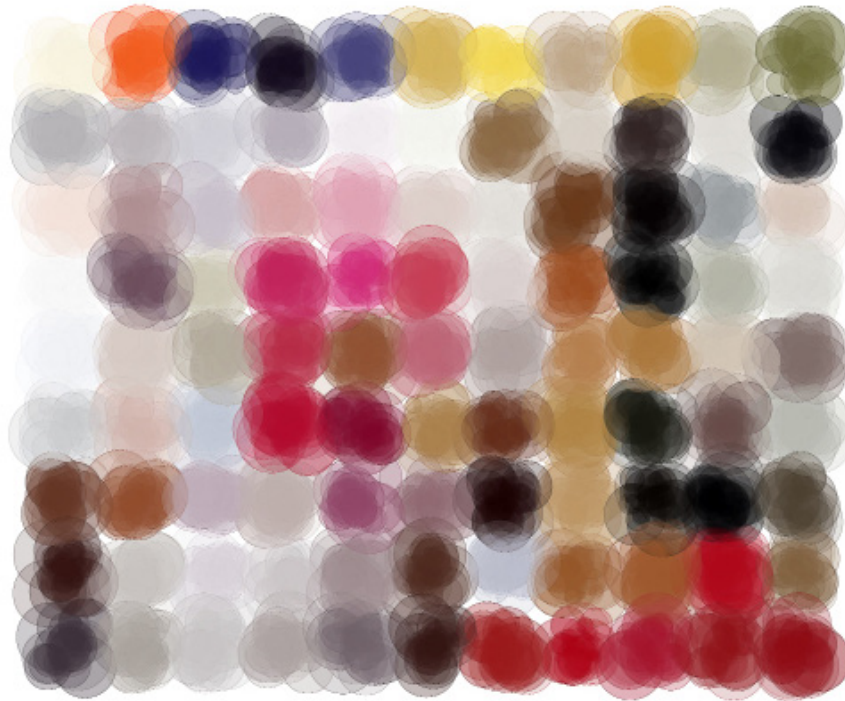
*Seokpacheon Hanok*, 2016. Photographic Sculpture, 30 cm diameter. Edition of 5.

Hanmi Gallery Seoul is delighted to present in *Phantoms*, a collection of works by German artist, Bernd Halbherr. Exploring aspects of spirituality and stories; reconstructing images digitally and physically, he creates a new visual dimension for the audience. Through various mediums, he challenges the notion of limitations, while offering viewers the opportunity to interact and re-examine the way in which they view their surroundings.

A strand in Halbherr's creative process is his interest in image distortion. Through a diverse means of this, he has produced a wide range of distinctive works. Perhaps the most recognizable amongst these are his iconic spherical photographic sculptures. Halbherr has created these spheres since his studies, explaining that the panoramic format allowed him to capture the image from all desirable angles, without having to crop anything out of the frame. When looking at one of his spheres, the viewers are presented with a panoramic image that completely covers the shape. The sphere and panoramic photograph are both representations of spatial totality, and through these pieces Halbherr seamlessly combines the two, overcoming the limitations of a camera lens' perspective. As the viewer walks around the spheres, they have to create their own imaginary surroundings, an extension of the partial aspect of the world that aligns with the artist's vision, which are at the same time, unique to each viewer.

The artist states his interest in technology also influences his art, to the extent that he created a 3D program that was used in the creation of the collection *Tokyo Life*. In this series, Halbherr takes images found online and distorts their content, leaving only a trace of their original form. Whilst the details of the image are removed, its essence remains. Viewers have to figure out what the image portrays on the basis of their own thoughts and experiences, as though trying to recall fading and fragmented memories. Similarly, in his *Short Stories* series, Halbherr deconstructs video and presents it in landscape images that are detached from their original forms. The antonymous images possess hypnotic qualities, and again the viewer discovers meanings as well as remnants of the original stills.

Halbherr was born in 1964, in the city of Ulm in Southern Germany, also the birthplace of Albert Einstein. He began studying art in Nuremberg, and soon entered the Düsseldorf Academy of Fine Arts, graduating with a Masters in Fine Arts in 1997. Halbherr received the DAAD scholarship and stayed briefly in Jerusalem, Israel. After that, he debuted in the Korean Art World through the Korean Media City Biennale 2000. He has remained an active artist in the country since. His works are held public collections, including Kunstmuseum im Ehrenhof, Duesseldorf; Sammlung Hermann, Karlsruhe; and Sammlung Stoschek, Duesseldorf in Germany; and private collections around the world including Seoul, Berlin, Duesseldorf, Ulm, Aachen, Moenchengladbach, Munich and Stuttgart.



Tokyo life Nr.7, 2015. Archive Print on Textile. 80 x 76 cm. Edition of 5.

## About Hanmi Gallery

Hanmi Gallery is dedicated to advocating Korean and East Asian art to an international audience. The gallery prides itself in curating and exhibiting works by a range of both established and early career artists from the gallery in London. Alongside our practice we host a programme of educational events, artist talks and collaborations in art projects with art organisations. Korean modern and contemporary art is vibrant and innovative; however it is often under represented outside of Korea. Our vision is to provide a platform from which to support Korean art through raising its international profile. Since 2014 our mission has expanded to encouraging an international dialogue with the opening of our sister space in Gangnam District in Seoul, Korea. While Hanmi Gallery specialises in Asian contemporary art we also focus on new media and interdisciplinary works. We aim to encourage and foster visual culture that resonates with the present-day.

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### Transport

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