

An abstract painting with a complex, layered texture. The background is a mix of deep blues, lighter blues, and purples, with visible brushstrokes and some darker, almost black, veins or lines running through the composition. The overall effect is one of organic, chaotic energy.

FRIEZE SEOUL

Booth No. S-05

석난희: RanHi Suk

SUN GALLERY



FRIEZE SEOUL

At Frieze Seoul 2026 Spotlight, SunGallery presents Nature in Painting, 1968–1995, a solo presentation of RanHi Suk (b.1939), a pioneering female artist of Korea's first generation of abstract art. For over six decades, she has explored nature as a fundamental source of her artistic practice, translating the sensory experience of nature and its inner rhythms through the movement of lines, layered colors, erased traces, and irregular surfaces. Bringing together lithographs created during her time in Paris in 1968, along with woodcuts and oil paintings from the 1980s and 1990s, the presentation traces how lines, repeated gestures, layers of color, and material surfaces evolved into a distinctive language of abstraction. Through her unique visual vocabulary, where the materiality of Western abstraction intersects with the spirit of East Asian brushwork, and through the formal trajectory of her practice from printmaking to painting, the exhibition reconsiders her place within the history of postwar Korean abstract art.

선화랑은 한국 추상미술 1세대 작가 석난희(b.1939)의 작품을 Frieze Seoul, Spotlight 섹터에서 선보입니다. 1968년 파리에서 제작된 석판화 작품을 출발점으로, 1980년대와 1990년대 자연에 대한 추상 화면이 주류를 이루었던 시기의 대표작 목판화와 유화를 함께 소개합니다. 이를 통해 서구 추상의 물질성과 동양적 필선의 정신이 교차하는 석난희의 작업세계를 살펴보는 동시에, 판화에서 회화로 확장되어 온 조형적 궤적을 통해 한국 추상미술의 전개 속에서 석난희가 구축해 온 미술사적 의미를 새롭게 조명합니다.

RanHi Suk: Nature in Painting, 1968 – 1995

RanHi Suk(b.1939), a first-generation Korean woman abstract artist, has placed nature at the center of her practice for more than six decades. She studied under Whanki Kim, a pioneer of Korean abstract art, in the Department of Western Painting at Hongik University. Recognized as the department's top student in 1962, she held her first solo exhibition while still enrolled. That same year, she participated in the inaugural exhibition of Mu-dongin, a collective dedicated to anti-art and experimental practices, marking her entry into Korea's avant-garde art movement. Shortly before departing for France in 1964 on Whanki Kim's recommendation, she also took part in the final exhibition of Actuel, an Art Informel group. From 1965 to 1969, she studied lithography at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. While studying lithography, she visited the studio of Ungno Lee, who was then based in Paris, and came to see ink painting in a new light. This encounter fostered an enduring interest in line, diluted pigments, spontaneous brushwork, and negative space. After she returned to Korea in 1969, these sensibilities gradually permeated her paintings and works on paper, forming the foundation of her distinctive abstract language. In 1977, the year the gallery opened, she held a solo exhibition there, followed by a second solo exhibition in 1979.

한국 추상미술 1세대 여류작가 석난희(b.1939)는 60여 년에 걸쳐 자연을 작업의 근원적 화두로 탐구해왔습니다. 선의 움직임과 중첩된 색채, 지워진 흔적, 그리고 불규칙한 표면을 통해 자연을 감각하는 과정과 내면의 흐름을 화면에 담아냅니다. 작가는 홍익대학교 서양화과 재학 중이던 1962년 김환기에 의해 최우수 학생으로 선발되어 첫 개인전을 개최했습니다. 같은 해 '무동인' 창립전, 1964년에는 '악튀엘'의 마지막 전시에 출품했으며 이후 1965년부터 1969년까지 파리 국립고등 미술학교에서 석판화를 전공했습니다. 작가는 당시 파리에 머물던 이응노의 작업실을 방문해 수묵화를 새로 접했습니다. 이 경험은 선과 묶은 안료, 즉흥적 붓질과 여백에 대한 관심으로 이어졌고 1969년 귀국 후 이러한 감각은 회화와 종이 작업에 점차 스며들며 작가 고유의 추상 언어를 형성하는 기반이 되었습니다. 석난희는 선화랑과 오랜 인연을 맺어 온 작가로 선화랑이 개관한 1977년 첫 개인전을 개최했으며, 1979년 두 번째 개인전을 이어 선보였습니다.



***Nature*, 1968**

Lithograph on Paper, 29.6×39.6cm

KRW 30,000,000

USD 21,200



Nature 87- 41, 1987

Woodcut print on Paper
64×41.5cm

KRW 15,000,000
USD 10,600



Nature 87-42, 1987

Woodcut print on Paper
63.5×43.5cm

KRW 15,000,000
USD 10,600



Nature , 1977

Wood cut print on Paper
57.7×88.5cm

KRW 18,000,000
USD 12,750

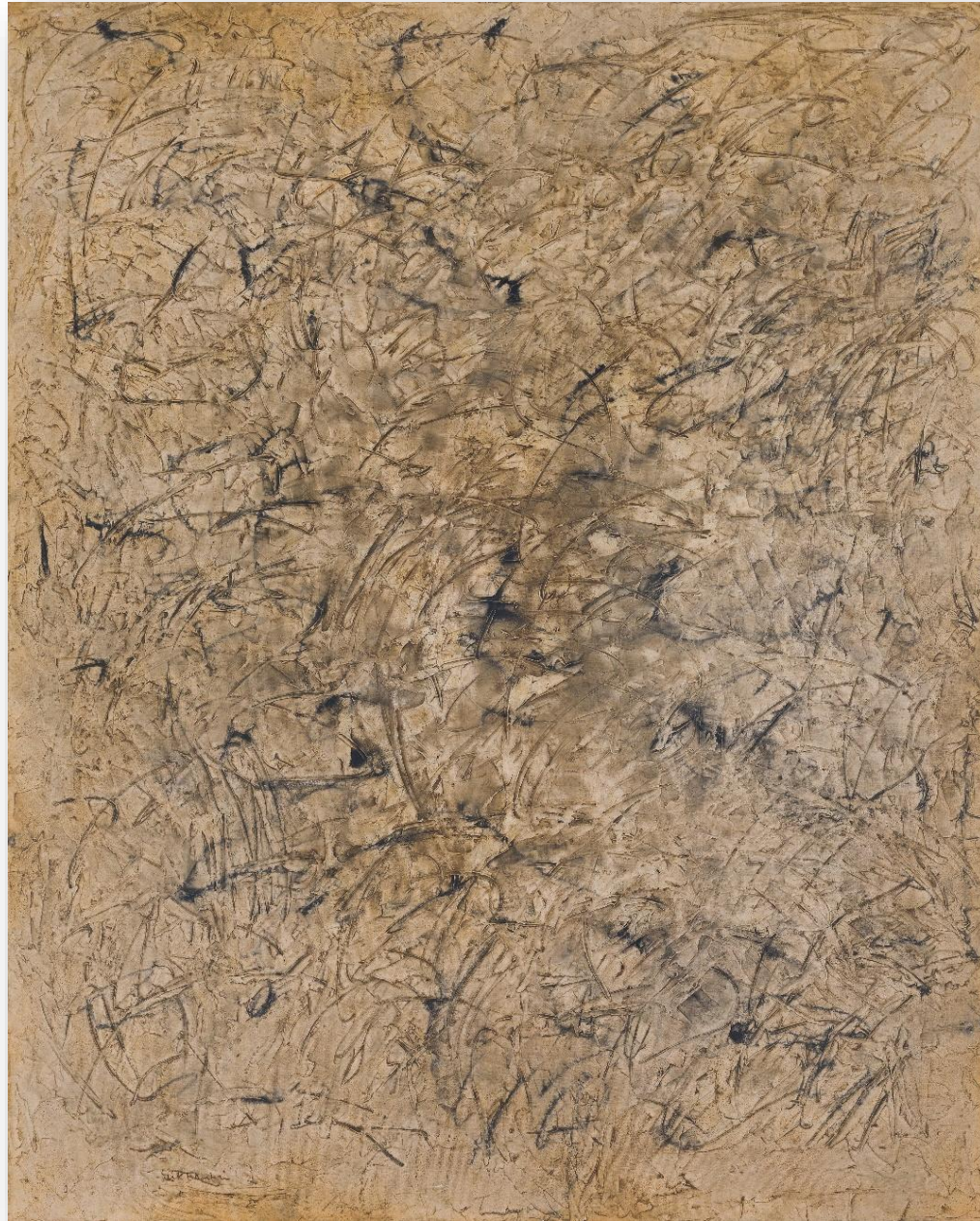




Nature 85, 1985

oil on Canvas
130×162cm

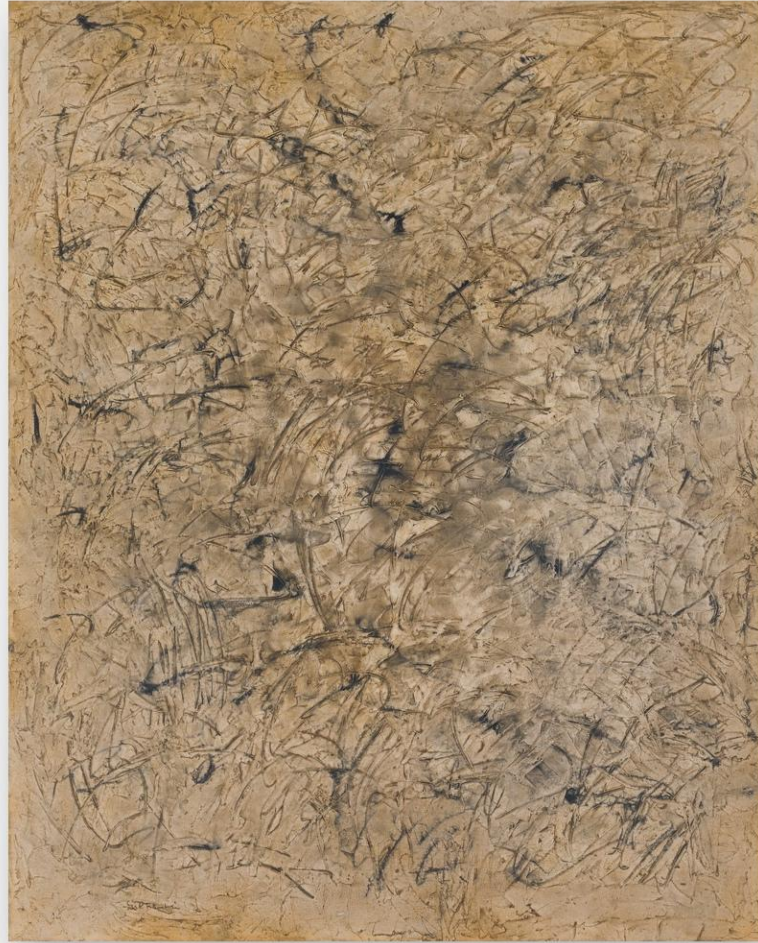
KRW 88,000,000
USD 60,500

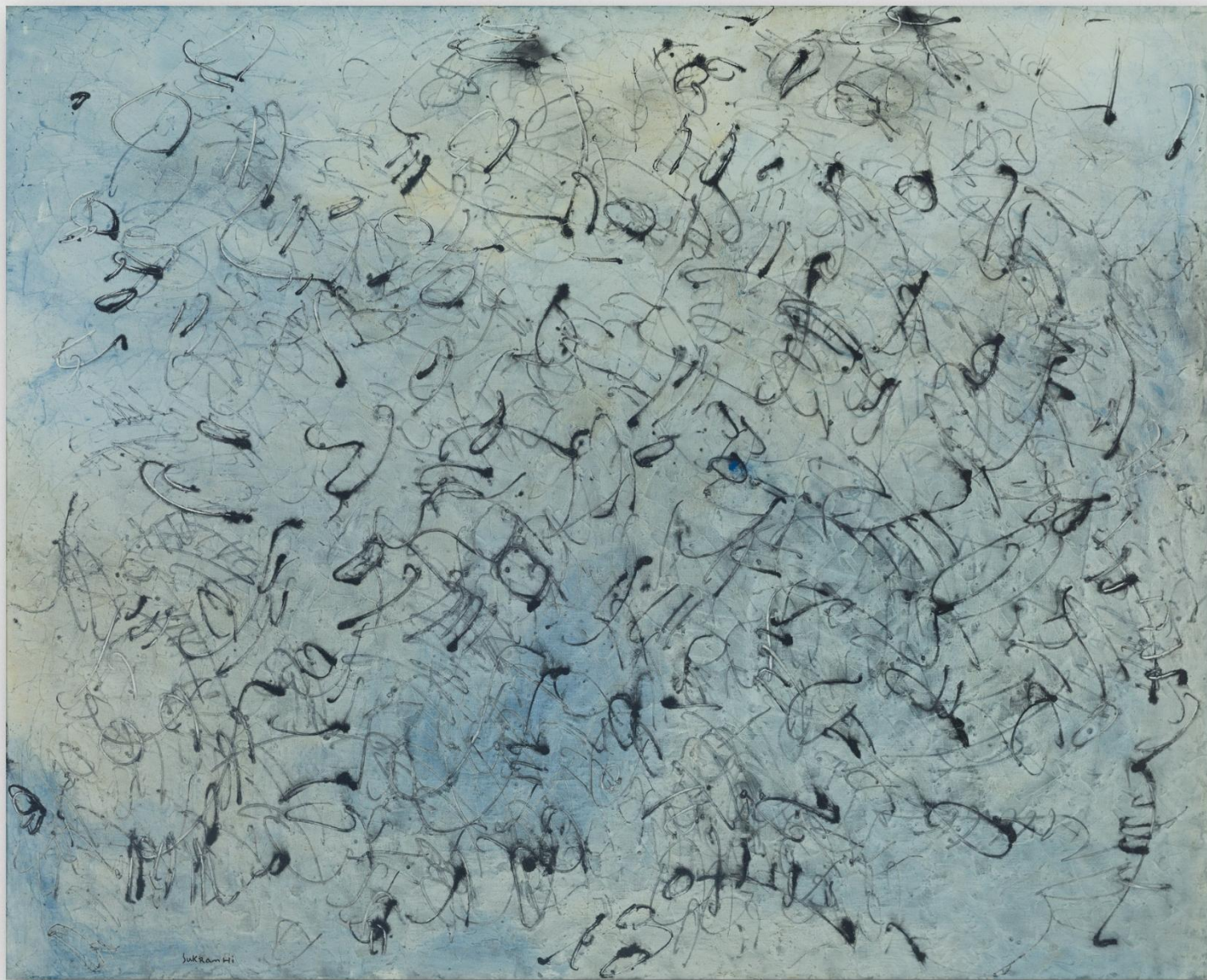


Nature, 1986

oil on canvas
162×130cm

KRW 88,000,000
USD 60,500





Nature 87-22, 1987

oil on canvas
130×162cm

KRW 88,000,000
USD 60,500







***Nature*, 1992**

oil on canvas
162×130cm

KRW 88,000,000
USD 60,500



Nature, 1980

oil on canvas
72.7×91cm

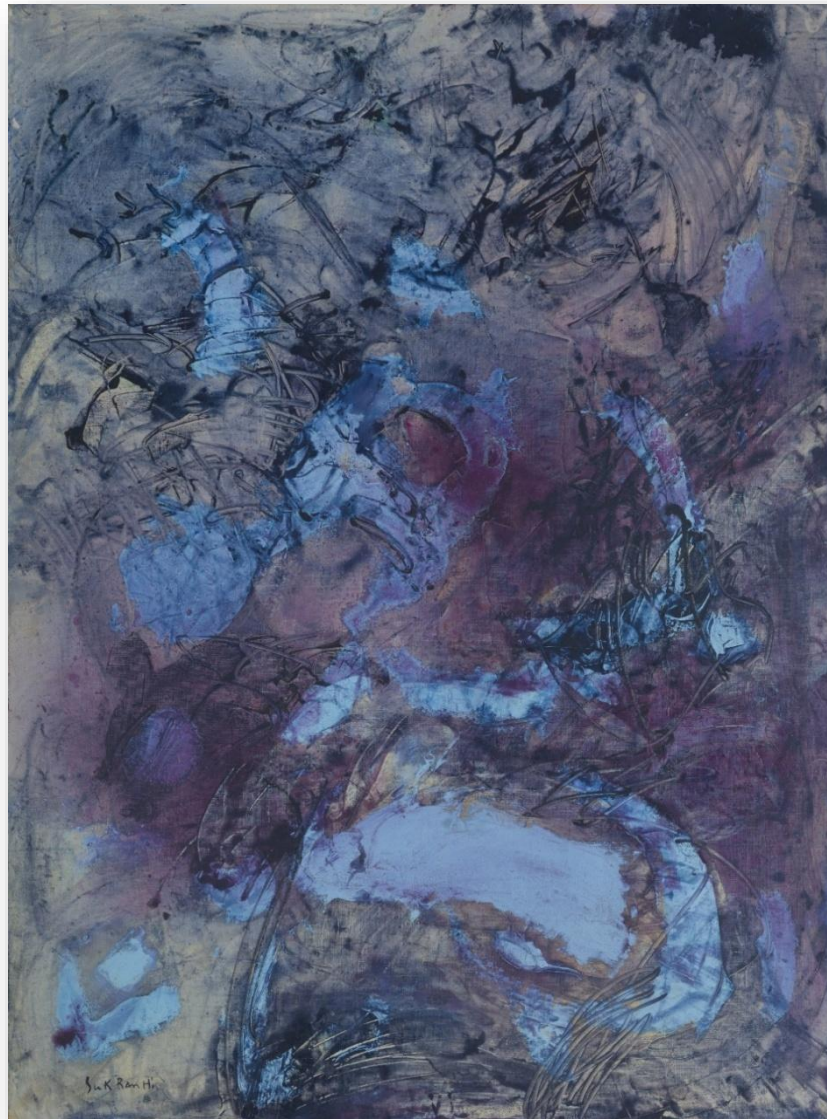
KRW 33,000,000
USD 23,100



***Nature*, 1995**

oil on canvas
130×97cm

KRW 52,800,000
USD 36,300







SUK RAN HI.



Nature, 1992

oil on Canvas, 72.7×91cm

33,000,000 KRW
23,100 USD





Suk Ran Hi.

***Nature*, 1992**

Oil on Canvas
162×130cm

KRW 88,000,000
USD 60,500



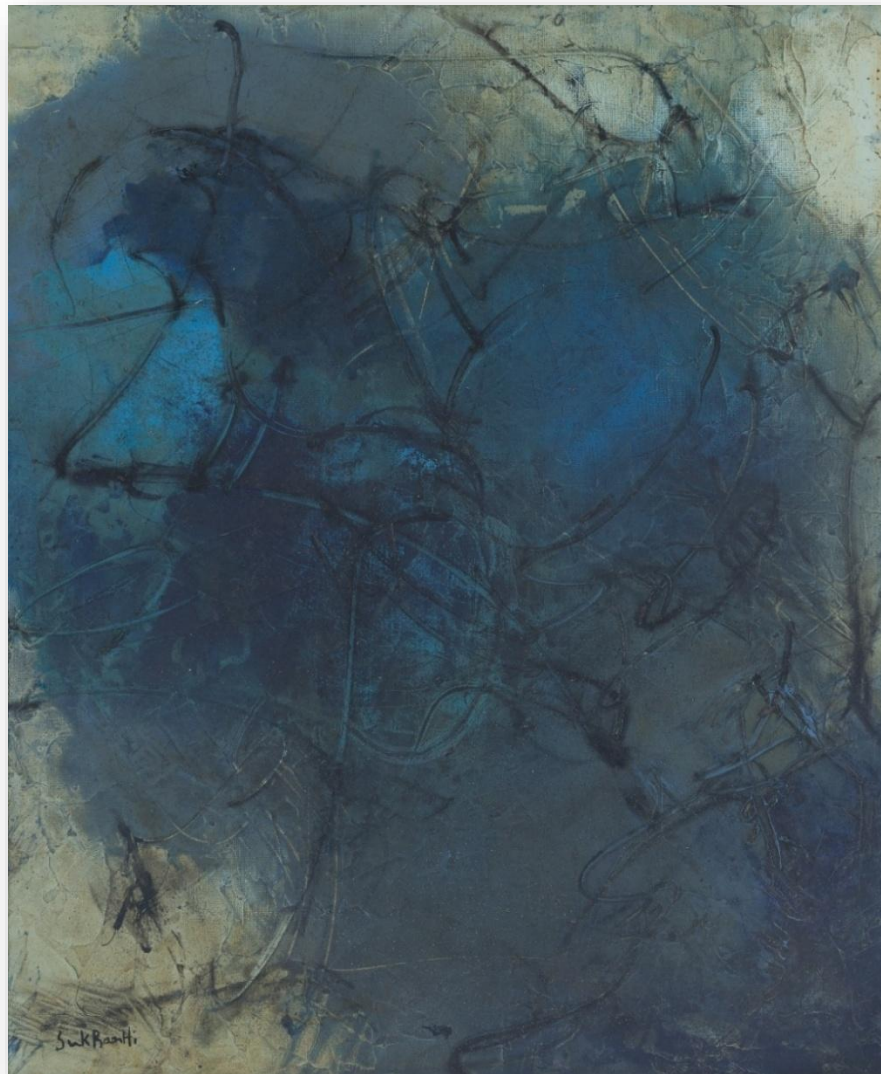




***Nature*, 1992**

Oil on Canvas
162×130cm

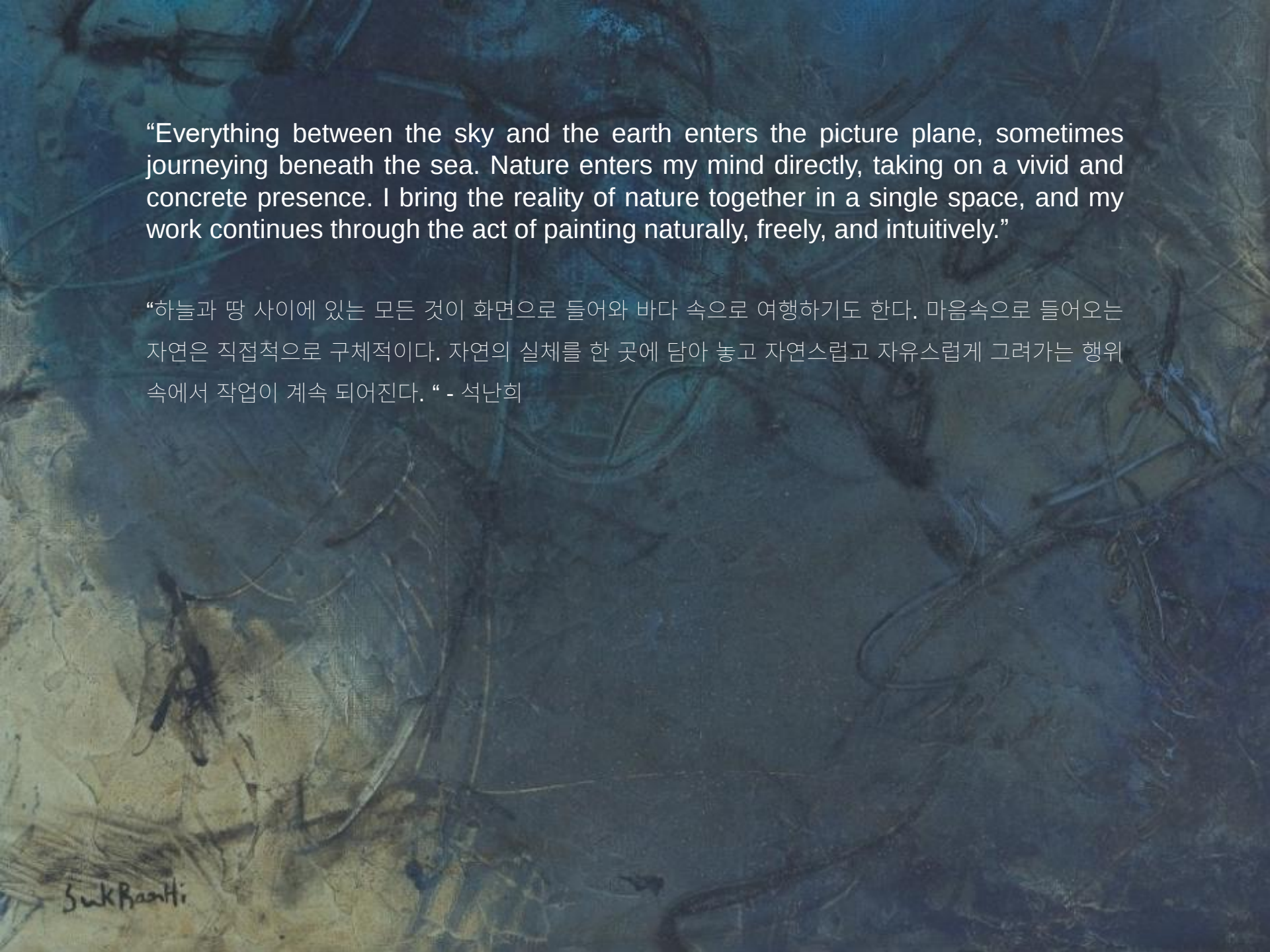
KRW 88,000,000
USD 60,500



Nature, 1990

oil on Canvas
73x61cm

KRW 22,000,000
USD 15,400



“Everything between the sky and the earth enters the picture plane, sometimes journeying beneath the sea. Nature enters my mind directly, taking on a vivid and concrete presence. I bring the reality of nature together in a single space, and my work continues through the act of painting naturally, freely, and intuitively.”

“하늘과 땅 사이에 있는 모든 것이 화면으로 들어와 바다 속으로 여행하기도 한다. 마음속으로 들어오는 자연은 직접적으로 구체적이다. 자연의 실체를 한 곳에 담아 놓고 자연스럽고 자유스럽게 그려가는 행위 속에서 작업이 계속 되어진다. “ - 석난희

SukBaeHi



***Nature*, 1992**

oil on canvas
91×72.7cm

KRW 33,000,000
USD 23,100



SukRanHi





UNTITLED
SANKU KWON
2008
OIL ON CANVAS
100x100cm



석난희 RanHi Suk 石蘭姬

Born in Seoul (b.1939)

1963 B.F.A., College of Fine Arts, Hongik University, Seoul, Korea

1964–1969 Studied at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France

Public Collections

Construction Guarantee Cooperative, Seoul

National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon

Busan Museum of Art, Busan

Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul

Wooyang Museum of Contemporary Art, Gyeongju

Walkerhill Museum of Art, Seoul

POSCO Art Museum, Seoul

Ho-Am Art Museum, Yongin

Hongik University Museum, Seoul

Whanki Museum, Seoul

Leeum Museum of Art, Seoul

Awards

1992 Seok Ju Art Prize

2002 MANIF SEOUL, Grand Prize

2005 Lee Jung Seop Art Award

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2025 — Solo Exhibition, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul

2014 — Suk Ran Hi: Breath of Nature, Whanki Museum, Seoul

2006 — Commemorative Exhibition for the 17th Lee Jung Seop Art Award, Chosun Ilbo Art Museum, Seoul

2001 — Solo Exhibition, Gallery Everarts, Paris

1995 — Woodblock Print Exhibition, Soo Gallery, Seoul

1993 — Solo Exhibition, Gallery Lux, Seoul

1992 — Solo Exhibition, Soo Gallery, Seoul

1990 — Suk RanHi Exhibition, Gallery Busan, Busan

1989 — Solo Exhibition, Simmons Gallery, Los Angeles

1988 — Solo Exhibition, Ingong Gallery, Daegu

1988 — Suk RanHi Exhibition, Soo Gallery, Seoul

1987 — Solo Exhibition, Hilton Gallery, Seoul

1984 — Solo Exhibition, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo

1983 — Solo Exhibition, Kwanhoon Museum of Art (now Kwanhoon Gallery), Seoul

1982 — Solo Exhibition, Maekhyang Gallery, Daegu

1981 — Woodcut Print Exhibition, Kongkan Gallery, Seoul

1980 — 10th Painting Exhibition: Suk Ran Hi, Korea Gallery, New York

1979 — Solo Exhibition, SunGallery, Seoul

1977 — Solo Exhibition, SunGallery, Seoul

1976 — Solo Exhibition, GalleryHyundai, Seoul

1968 — Solo Exhibition, Galerie Artemont, Paris

1962 — Solo Exhibition, Shinmun Hoegwan Gallery, Seoul

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FRIEZE SEOUL

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