

EQUINOX GALLERY
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Khan Lee: Lost and Found

November 26 to December 23, 2022

Opening reception: Saturday November 26, 2 to 4pm

Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

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Equinox Gallery is pleased to feature *Lost and Found*, Khan Lee's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Khan Lee's conceptual practice involves experimentation with forms and processes in order to explore the inherent relationships between material and immaterial content.

For this exhibition, Lee presents a body of works in disparate media, encouraging viewers to contemplate how materials and devices can be experienced in profoundly diverse ways. In the exhibition, a Super8 film measures both time and distance; a dizzying display of finely painted realist watercolours of Zoom backgrounds comments on how individuals choose to represent themselves through their belongings; and common objects, such as men's shirts and paper cups, offer a poetic musing on how everyday phenomena can easily be overlooked. In recontextualizing quotidian objects and moments, *Lost and Found* rekindles the surprising and often intangible dynamics of everyday life.

The title of this exhibition, *Lost and Found*, speaks to the methodology of the artist's process and the way the works were developed conceptually and physically. *Fifty Feet* (2002-2022) is based on an idea that Khan Lee had two decades ago but that he considers "lost" as he was unable to produce it until recently. *Fifty Feet* consists of a 50 foot long Super8 film of a tape measure, displayed as a lightbox in a single uninterrupted line on the wall. Shot in Ektachrome at a 1:1 ratio, the film is a literal interpretation of 50 fifty of film, but in its production and presentation it makes manifest a more poetic reading of time, distance, and the physical qualities of time-based media.

Cups (2016) is a sculpture made from one year's worth of used coffee cups stacked at over 9 feet tall. Fascinated with the process of unconscious mark-making, Lee's tower of coffee cups offers a cumulative way of bearing witness to commonplace and unobserved actions, in this case, the act of sipping a daily coffee. The use of commercially available materials (cups and steel) and the straightforward presentation recall the Minimalist sculptures of the 1960s while the emotive and gestural drips and stains of the coffee elicit the work of the Colour Field painters. Stacked together, this work emphasizes the artist's daily routine without revealing any personal details.

Lost and Found (2000-2022) considers ideas of time and the unconscious through the lengthy list of mediums included in its record. Staples, paper, waxed paper, glue, wax, plaster, rubber, silicone, ink, charcoal, graphite, chalk, oil pastel, oil paint, acrylic paint, masking tape, duct tape, transparent tape, cloth tape, painter's tape, product label, woodchip, chewing gum, dust, wood, and metal are all listed as materials in this work. This found object records over two decades of human interaction in its previous life as a table in the Bard College studios. Now shown on the

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gallery wall, every component is deeply considered, the inverse of the way in which the work was produced.

Intermission (2022) is a dizzying display of finely painted realist watercolours of Zoom backgrounds takes over the viewer's entire field of vision. Largely pulled from the artist's personal experience with the relatively-new and now ubiquitous method of communication, *Intermission* offers small glimpses into the personal spaces of those around us. Some carefully curated and others completely functional, the spaces represented in these delicate paintings offer oblique views on how personal spaces have become part of the public and professional spheres, and the increasing ways that those line are blurred.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Khan Lee studied architecture at Hong-Ik University before immigrating to Canada to study fine art at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. He maintains a rigorous public art practice and his site-specific works, such as *108 Steps* at Kingsway and Gladstone streets, can be seen throughout the Lower Mainland. Recent exhibitions include *Wings of Desire* (2019), Republic Gallery, Vancouver; *Hearts and Arrows* (2017), Aga Khan Museum, Toronto; and *Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures* (2016), Vancouver Art Gallery Offsite. Lee was a founding member of the Vancouver-based artist collective *Intermission* and a member of the *Instant Coffee* artist collective. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is represented in many public and private collections. Khan Lee divides his time between Vancouver and Annandale-on-Hudson, where he is completing his Masters in Fine Arts at Bard College.