

Venice Wood Water

Lee Bae



The Wilmotte Foundation presents from June 16 to November 24, 2019:

©photo by Alessandra Chemollo

Venice Wood Water, Lee Bae

Wilmotte Foundation Gallery
Fondaco degli Angeli - Fondamenta dell'Abbazia
Cannaregio 3560 - 30121 Venezia

Press Release

The Wilmotte Foundation in Venice is pleased to present:

VENICE WOOD WATER

Lee Bae

The Wilmotte Foundation presents "Venice Wood Water" from June 16 to November 24, a work by Lee Bae, commissioned by the Foundation for the 58th International Art Exhibition in collaboration with the Perrotin Gallery.

Lee Bae and I first met in 1999.

A beautiful complicity was born.

Together we have created a well-received exposition at the foundation Fernet Branca.

Lee Bae is foremost a great poet.

His poetry is expressed through different mediums, but always with a certain sensibility, finesse, and subtlety; whether by using fire in burning wood, which once calcinated and sectioned brings to light large landscapes, or by using entire bundles of wood which he sets alight before transforming them into sculptures. It also arrives that he smashes wooden panels, splintering them into pieces, which when placed side by side become a form of naturalist writing.

Enormous draftsman, Lee Bae wields a pencil with delicacy and precision, creating still life drawings worthy of the greatest scientific drawings of the enlightenment.

Originally, Lee Bae is a talented drawer, delicately using the pencil to create still life drawings worthy of the greatest scientific drawings of the 18th century.

I find there exists a beautiful resonance between Venice and the work of Lee Bae: his assemblies of carbonized bundles of wood, resembling the columns of Venetian palaces, and his large splashes of black, evoking the waters of the lagoon, spread across immaculate wax surfaces.

I sincerely thank Lee Bae, who immediately adhered to the project with enthusiasm and natural elegance, agreeing to present this magnificent exposition at the gallery of the Wilmotte Foundation in honor of 58th edition of the Biennale of Venice.

Jean-Michel Wilmotte, June 2019

LEE BAE_Biography

Lee Bae, a talented Korean artist born in 1956 in Chung-Do (South Korea), in 1979 he started the M.F.A. Department of Fine Arts, Hongik University Graduate School of Art, Seoul, Korea. Since 1990 he works and lives in Paris, France. Lee Bae is one of the greatest exponents of the Korean contemporary scene. There are several works presented in France with a variety of exhibitions hosted at prestigious institutional venues, as well as in private spaces, personal and collective exhibitions that explore the various facets of his artistic production.

Lee Bae's monochromatic practice is a formal and immersive quest into the abysses of blackness.

Subtly blurring the lines between drawing, painting, sculpture and installation, he has shaped his abstract aesthetics across categories to grant the non-color tangible depth and intensity. Until the mid-2000s, he worked exclusively with raw charcoal to create minimal and refined, mosaic-like assemblages of charred wooden shards or chunks on canvases, as well as larger sculptural arrangements of carbonized trunks. Obtained by burning wood and used to revive fire, charcoal offers a powerful metaphor for the cycle of life that has further inspired him to open his exploration onto the fourth dimension of time. While he has moved on to solely working with carbon black, a substance close to soot, Lee Bae's latest series of pictorial works crystallizes random elemental gestures, which he practices beforehand with Indian ink on paper, into thick layers of translucent acrylic medium resembling wax.

The Wilmotte Foundation

In 2005, as a response to his concern about the preservation of architectural heritage, Jean-Michel Wilmotte creates the Foundation Wilmotte in order to create awareness and provide education to young architects on the problems of conservation and restoration of buildings.

The objective is to establish a framework for the elegant merging of the patrimony and the contemporary work through "Contemporary Grafting".

The Foundation has the purpose to play the role of a ferryman, to discover and encourage young talents, to help the promotion of the architectural culture and building bridges between architecture, heritage and contemporary art.

The Wilmotte Foundation was established in the heart of the authentic Venice, in Cannaregio, opening its own exhibition space: the Fondaco degli Angeli, in August 2012. Typically Venetian, this space has two accesses: one by land and one by water from Sacca della Misericordia, north of the lagoon.

The main entrance is through the arch of Santa Maria della Misericordia across the garden.

After an extensive renovation, the site once again found its past splendor.

First a naval workshop, then a woodshop, and finally a professional school, the renovated space offers the Wilmotte Foundation an exhibition space of international stature, unprecedented in Venice.

The Wilmotte Foundation gallery :

Fondaco Degli Angeli

Fondamenta dell'Abbazia

Cannaregio 3560

30121 – Venezia

Thursday to Sunday 10am-13.30pm / 14am-18pm

Closed on Mondays

Website: www.fondationwilmotte.fr

E-mail: fondation@wilmotte.fr

The Gallery Perrotin

Founded in Paris in 1990 by Emmanuel Perrotin, then 21 years old, the gallery has become one of the most influential contemporary art galleries in the world. Spanning over 7000 square meters (75,000 square feet) across three continents, Perrotin is located in Paris, Hong Kong, New York, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai.

The gallery represents about 50 artists from 21 different countries. It organizes 35 exhibitions, and partakes in about 20 international art fairs each year. Perrotin is driven by a team of 130 dynamic collaborators worldwide, including 3 partners and over fifteen directors. Over the past three decades, Perrotin has exhibited and supported contemporary and modern artists through many collaborative projects.

www.perrotin.com