

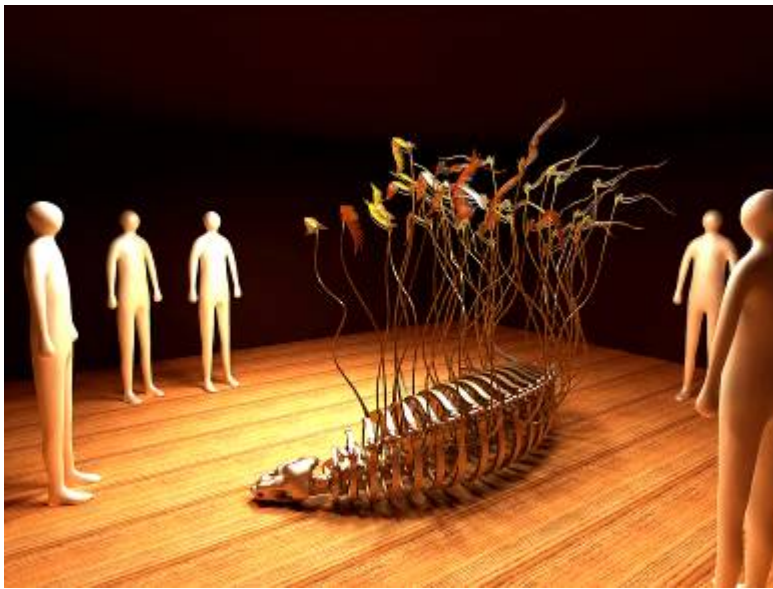


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ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM PRESENTS *U-RAM CHOE: IN FOCUS*

EXHIBITION IS THE KOREAN ARTIST'S FIRST SOLO NEW YORK MUSEUM EXHIBITION

On view September 9–December 31, 2011



U-Ram Choe, *Custos Cavum*, 2011. Metal, resin, motor, gears, custom CPU board, LED. H. 85 5/8 x W. 141 3/4 x D. 102 3/8 in. Courtesy of the artist and bitforms gallery nyc

U-Ram Choe (b. 1970, Korea) is best known for his meticulously designed kinetic sculptures made of acrylic and stainless steel, animated by robotics developed and programmed by the artist. Often equipped with motion sensors and suspended from the ceiling, Choe's beautiful mechanic creations react smoothly—and sometimes

alarmingly—to the movements of visitors around them. They are accompanied by texts that tell the story of their imagined evolutionary histories.

For this project, his first solo New York museum exhibition, Choe has created a new silent, kinetic work inspired by Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Shiva Nataraja), an Indian copper alloy sculpture from the tenth century, which depicts the Hindu god who is at once the creator and destroyer of the universe. The Shiva sculpture is part of Asia Society's Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection of traditional Asian art. *Custos Cavum*, Choe's new design, resembles the skeletal form of a seal-like animal with protruding reed-like structures, tipped with wings that rise and fall as if the creature is breathing. Slow, gentle, and feeble, the movements suggest the cycle of birth and death. The work will be shown with the Shiva

sculpture that serves as its inspiration. In conjunction with the work that will be installed in the gallery, the artist will also create a related work for the Asia Society window space facing 70th Street at street level. The artist's mythical story of Custos Cavum connects this small kinetic sculpture in the window to the larger installation that focuses on the circle of life and death.

The exhibition is part of Asia Society Museum's ongoing "In Focus" series in which contemporary artists create new works of art inspired by works of their choice from Asia Society's Rockefeller Collection. The exhibition is curated by Miwako Tezuka, Associate Curator, Asia Society. Artists participating in recent "In Focus" exhibitions at Asia Society include Michael Joo, Yoshihiro Suda and Yuken Teruya.

Artist Biography

U-Ram Choe was born in 1970 in Seoul, Korea, where he still lives and works. He received a BFA and MFA from Chung-Ang University in Seoul. Initially trained as an engineer, Choe incorporates his scientific interests into his kinetic sculptures. They appear to be new species that have evolved out of today's technological urban environment. Choe's sculptures move slowly and gracefully, controlled by unique mechanical systems that are designed and programmed by the artist himself. His work has been exhibited at various international venues including Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville (2010); Liverpool Biennial, Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, Liverpool (2008); Asia Triennial Manchester (2008); Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2006); Shanghai Biennial (2006); Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul (2004); Busan Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea (2004); Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (2004); and Seoul Museum of Art (1999).

Exhibition support

Support for this project has been provided by the late Lillian Booth in honor of Young Yang Chung and the Korean Cultural Service NY. Support for this exhibition provided by Asia Society's Contemporary Art Council and the Sheryl and Charles R. Kaye Endowment for Contemporary Art Exhibitions.

About Asia Society Museum and Contemporary Asian Art

In the early 1990s, the Asia Society Museum was one of the first U.S. museums to establish an ongoing program of contemporary Asian art exhibitions. In addition, the Asia Society Museum was the first U.S. museum to organize solo shows of now widely recognized artists Montien Boonma, Cai Guo-Qiang, Dinh Q. Lê, Yuken Teruya, and Zhang Huan.

Asia Society Museum is located at 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street), New York City. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M. and Friday from 11:00 A.M.–9:00 P.M. Closed on Mondays and major holidays. General admission is \$10, seniors \$7, students \$5 and free for members and persons under 16. Free admission Friday evenings, 6:00–9:00 P.M. The Museum is closed Fridays after 6:00 P.M. from July 1 through September 9, 2011. AsiaSociety.org/museum