



HO JAE KIM
Carousel

Harper's Chelsea 512 + 534
March 16 — May 6, 2023

HARPER'S

Ho Jae Kim

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March 16 through May 6, 2023

Harper's Chelsea 512 + 534

512 + 534 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011

Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm

Harper's is pleased to announce *Carousel*, Ho Jae Kim's second solo exhibition with the gallery. Kim presents a new series of mixed media paintings, continuing his material and conceptual explorations of liminality. The exhibition culminates a rigorous engagement with his practice as a meditative space for healing and growth. *Carousel* opens on Thursday, March 16, 6–8pm, with a reception attended by the artist.

The centerpiece of this exhibition, its namesake painting, depicts a carousel with 31 horses signifying the days of the month. For each of these “days,” I built a unique narrative in honor of liminal spaces, the mundane, and the quotidian. Just as life continues regardless of our psychology, the carousel will turn whether or not there is a rider. While I prepared for this exhibition, I thought of the displacement I've experienced by tragic events out of my control. One summer night in 2022, my stepfather committed suicide. He left a brief note for my mother before driving to a nearby railroad where he waited for a train to take his life. Since then, I have been plagued with a vision of the train's headlights—a magnificent bright light that dissolves the contours of everything in its path. I became a prisoner to this light that exists within my dark fantasy.

We rely on fleeting moments of significance to define life, but the majority of our lives are shaped by non-moments of transition, endurance, and dormancy. For this reason, I chose to create representations of less significant moments in order to build a body of work that can paint a better picture of reality. Luxurious portrayals of life as depicted in movies and pop culture cultivate dreams of becoming a character in a fantasy, but these dreams are quickly shattered by the constraints and circumstances of daily life. We become psychologically displaced and rejected by the fantasies that once served as our vitality. We begin to live in a state of purgatory, caught between reality and our dreams.

In *The Divine Comedy*, during the transition from the Inferno to Purgatory, Dante turns right to see the light from the east on Easter Sunday, a day of resurrection. With this new orientation, Dante's purgatory becomes a place of hope, where lost souls can choose to repent or find redemption. The horses on my carousel face to the left, in the direction of the spiraling Inferno, but if the audience chooses to imagine the mechanism rotating, the horses will eventually turn right as they continue their clockwise journey. Similarly, as the halos, arches, circles, and light in my paintings become juxtaposed with the mundanity of the subjects, they transform those quiet non-moments into divinity, and the prisoners of my narratives are granted redemption.

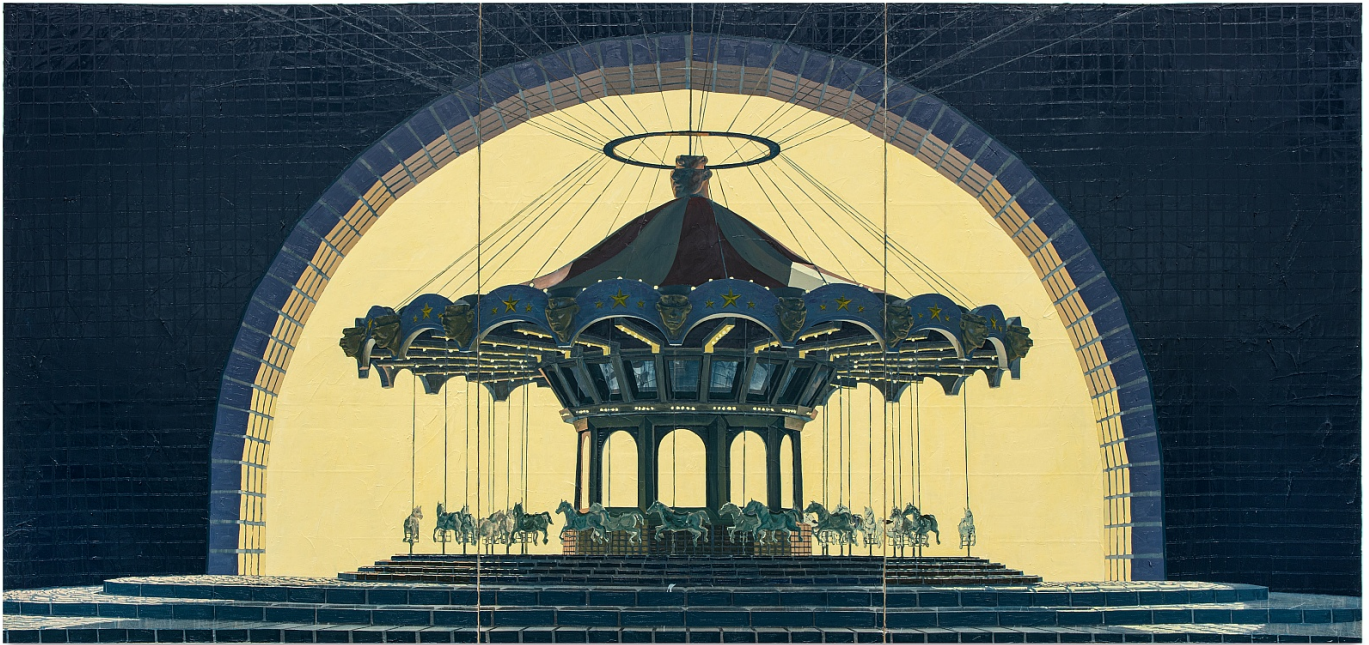
This body of work began as a tragedy, but it has the potential to become a comedy. And just as I wish for my loved ones to see the beauty that is within their souls, I hope that my divine scenes of nothingness can become a vehicle for others to redeem themselves in purgatory and indulge in the beauty that is inherent in every life.

—Written by Ho Jae Kim

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512 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011 harpersgallery.com

Ho Jae Kim (b. 1993, Seoul, South Korea) received a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design in 2016; he is currently based in New York City. Most recently, his work has been exhibited at Harper's, New York, Los Angeles, and East Hampton (2023, 2022, and 2021); Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2023); Christie's, New York (2022 and 2020); Sotheby's, New York (2022 and 2018); EXPO Chicago, online (2021); SPRING/BREAK Art Show, New York (2020); and K&P Gallery, New York (2019). His work has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Forbes*, and *Artsy*, among other publications.



Ho Jae Kim

Carousel

2023

Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas

Triptych; 96 x 204 in (altogether)





Ho Jae Kim
Day 1: Richard Parker
2022
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 2: The White City
2022
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim
Day 3: Janitor
2022
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim
Day 4: Scarecrow
2022
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 5: In Praise of Shadows
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim
Day 6: Buried
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim
Day 7: Planted Man
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 8: Laundry List
2022
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 9: Dancers
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim

Day 10: Thicket

2022

Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas

50h x 40w in

127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim

Day 11: Flight Simulation

2023

Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas

50h x 40w in

127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim
Day 12: Fountain
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim
Day 13: Map of the World
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 14: Rehearsal
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 15: Baggage
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 16: Therapy
2022
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim
Day 17: Don Quixote
2022
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 19: Wilson
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm



Ho Jae Kim
Day 20: Lavender Bath
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
50h x 40w in
127h x 101.60w cm





Ho Jae Kim
Songs of the Remaining Days
2023
Oil, inkjet transfer, enamel, and paper on canvas
96h x 66.50w in
243.84h x 168.91w cm



HO JAE KIM

b. 1993, Seoul, KR

Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

EDUCATION

2016 BFA, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Solo exhibition, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (forthcoming)
Carousel, Harper's, New York, NY
- 2021 *Butterfly Dream*, Harper's, New York, NY
- 2019 *Roses on Monday*, K&P Gallery, New York, NY
Why Everyday is a Monday, Established Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Rube Goldberg Machine, Studio Gaak, New York, NY
- 2018 *Behind the Scenes of Your Fantasy*, Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *RIPE*, Harper's, Los Angeles, CA
DISEMBODIED, Nicodim, New York, NY
Solidarity, NEXX Asia, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2022 NADA Miami, Harper's booth, Miami, FL
Harper's X Galerie 75 Faubourg, Galerie 75 Faubourg, Paris, FR
Jerry Gogosian's Suggested Followers: How the Algorithm is Always Right, Sotheby's, New York, NY
Popup exhibition, The Shilla, Seoul, KR
At the Table, Christie's, New York, NY
25 Years, Harper's, East Hampton, NY
NADA New York, Harper's booth, New York, NY
Felix Art Fair, Harper's booth, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 NADA Miami, Harper's booth, Miami, FL
UNTITLED Miami Beach, Harper's booth, Miami, FL
Melrose, Harper's, Los Angeles, CA
EXPO Chicago (online)
- 2020 SPRING/BREAK Art Show, New York, NY
Educate: A Charity Exhibition Benefiting the Luminos Fund, Christie's, New York, NY
- 2019 *Hungry*, Hand Hospitality, New York, NY
Group Exhibition, Flushing Town Hall, Flushing, NY
- 2016 *Love You This*, Memorial Hall Gallery, Providence, RI
Chronicals of Gnarlia, Red Eye Gallery, Providence, RI
Grand Opening Show, Sprout Gallery, Providence, RI
- 2014 *Wet*, popup, Providence, RI

SELECTED PRESS

- 2022 Raina Mehler, "Jerry Gagosian at Sotheby's: The Sale of a Lifetime," *Whitehot Magazine*, October 2022
 Abby Schultz, "Christie's Spotlights Diversity in the Asian Diaspora in a Selling Exhibition," *Barron's*, June 30, 2022
 Justin Kamp, "What Sold at New York Art Week 2022," *Artsy*, May 9, 2022
- 2021 "코로나 시대, 예술인들의 현재와 미래는? #10 Talk Talk Talk: Visual Arts During Pandemic," Interview, Korean Association of New York Artists (KANA NYC), February 10, 2021
- 2019 "A Pocket Guide to Painting at SPRING/BREAK Art Show." *Two Coats of Paint*, March 9, 2019
 Jiwoo Kim and Jennifer Lee, "[SYC Artist #3] Ho Jae," *KANA NYC*, February 8, 2019
- 2018 David Alm, "'Erased Rauschenberg' Sells for \$21,000," *Forbes*, March 21, 2018
 "Place your ad here," *The Art Newspaper*, March 9, 2018
 Katherine McGrath, "Why This Artist Intentionally Destroyed a Famous Work of Art," *Architectural Digest*, March 8, 2018
 Tim Teeman, "The Artist Destroying a Robert Rauschenberg Print—To Save Art," *The Daily Beast*, March 4, 2018
 Claire Yoon, "Artist Auctions a Rauschenberg Print Completely Covered in Ads," *Hyperallergic*, March 2, 2018
 Sarah Cascone, "This Artist Sold Ads to Cover a Robert Rauschenberg Work. Now He's Auctioning It Off for \$20,000," *Artnet*, February 28, 2018
 James Dennin, "Why this conceptual artist is raising \$10,000 to buy and destroy an iconic piece of art," *Mic*, February 1, 2018
 Ann Quito, "An artist is destroying a signed Rauschenberg—to save art," *Quartzly*, January 15, 2018
 Sarah Cascone, "This Artist Wants to 'Erase' a Robert Rauschenberg Print by Selling Ads to Cover It," *Artnet*, January 10, 2018
 Soo Bin Lee, "artist interview_ 예술적 철학을 담은 작품을 그리는 아티스트, 호재," *Unpluggedbaba*, January 10, 2018
- 2013 Jane Kenoyer, "Ho Jae Kim's Subdued Emotionally Provocative Paintings," *Hi Fructose*, September 11, 2013

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

JP Morgan Chase, New York, NY
 Morgan Stanley, New York, NY

HARPER'S CHELSEA 512

512 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011

HARPER'S CHELSEA 534

534 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011

HARPER'S BOOKS

504 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011

HARPER'S APARTMENT

51 East 74th Street, New York, NY 10021

HARPER'S EAST HAMPTON

87 Newtown Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937

HARPER'S LOS ANGELES

8115 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046

For sales inquiries, please contact sales@harpersgallery.com

For press inquiries, please contact info@harpersgallery.com