

PRESS RELEASE

# Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

FLOW  
流

EXHIBITION OPENING

**FLOW 流**

June 18–September 18, 2016



Installation view of Jae Ko's *Force of Nature, 白 Shiro* at Grounds for Sculpture, 2015-16. Recycled paper, dimensions variable. Photo courtesy the artist.

**OPENING RECEPTION****flow 流**

Friday, June 17, 2016

6:30–9PM

HOUSTON, TX (May 18, 2016)—For nearly two decades Jae Ko has worked in fiber, transforming ordinary materials like paper and vinyl cords into extraordinary sculptural objects. Her work ranges from discrete wall reliefs and small sculptures to monumental installations that evoke topography and movement. For her debut at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Ko will create a site-specific installation entitled *flow 流*, the newest iteration in a series she calls “Force of Nature.” Inspired by visits to Newfoundland and the far northwestern reaches of the United States, Ko reconstructs the melting Tundra, with its floating, fractured glaciers. The room-sized

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sculptural relief is constructed from nearly one ton of recycled paper that has been re-spooled and shaped to fit the architecture of CAMH's Zilkha Gallery. The very nature of the material appears changed within the space as it in turn alters the gallery's concrete, stark architecture into undulating surfaces of white formations that suggest imperceptible movements that come from the material's play with light and shadow.

Born in Korea, Ko studied graphic and commercial design in Japan. She often worked with paper as a designer, but her desire to push the medium to unexpected places was the catalyst for a shift in focusing on her art. Her early works were inspired by the rich traditions of Asia—its calligraphy and traditional women's hairstyles. Ko's love of cultural forms as well as process and materiality merged during her formal studies in Japan. Her series of discrete malleable sculptural works made of paper were systematically dyed with traditional inks and graphite powder to create her own form of sculpture and drawing by playing with the lines of the paper. Manipulations with glue and water further distanced the material from its original intent. Her more recent works, while still seeped in a visual language of tradition and personal and communal histories, are now imbued with the artist's love of landscape. Working laboriously with painstaking precision, Ko uses coils of commercial adding machine paper that she then unspools, rewinds, molds, and shapes. After moving from Washington, D.C. into the more remote island off of Maryland's Western Shore, Ko has shifted from creating smaller works to monumental installations inspired by nature.

An artist who has described herself as “obsessed with paper,” Ko is as exact as she is intuitive when she works with her favorite material, responding to both it and the space in which it will inhabit. Ko will be working onsite at CAMH for ten days ahead of the opening creating her large, site-specific installation. Guests are invited to see the work as it progresses when visiting the museum during this period.

*flow* 流 is organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, Senior Curator at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Korea, Jae Ko received her BFA from Wako University in 1988 and her MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore in 1998. She received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant in 2002. The artist now works and lives between Maryland and Arlington, Virginia. Her work is in the collection of

**PRESS RELEASE****PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

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**IN CONVERSATION**

Jae Ko with Valerie Cassel Oliver

Saturday, June 18, 2016

2PM

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**OPEN STUDIO**

Saturday, July 2, 2016

2–4PM

Hands-on, drop-in, all-ages projects related to all things paper inspired by Jae Ko's immersive installation.

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**MUSEUM EXPERIENCE DAY**

Saturday, July 30, 2016

11AM–3PM

Explore Jae Ko's exhibition with your whole family, participate in hands-on activities, food trucks, scavenger hunts, and more!

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**PUBLIC TOURS**

Saturdays, 1PM and 3PM

CAMH's dynamic FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) Team members offer free, guided experiences of the exhibitions on view.

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**LECTURE**

Kurt Cuffey, Glaciologist

Saturday, September 10, 2016

2PM

the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C. and numerous private collections throughout the United States. Ko's site-specific installation *Force of Nature*, 白 *Shiro* was recently on view at Grounds for Sculpture in Township, New Jersey.

**PUBLICATION**

*flow* 流 is accompanied by an illustrated color catalogue that includes an interview between the artist Jae Ko and Senior Curator Valerie Cassel Oliver. The catalogue features images of the exhibition installation, as well as the artist's biography.

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

All events are free and open to the public and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted. For complete listings and current information, please check [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org).

**EXHIBITION SUPPORT**

This exhibition has been made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to the Museum's Friends of Steel Exhibitions: Director's Circle: Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Faye Sarofim, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Curator's Circle: Dillon Kyle Architecture, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Kempner III, Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister. Major Exhibition Circle: A Fare Extraordinaire, Bergner and Johnson Design, Jereann Chaney, Sara Paschall Dodd, Greg Fourticq, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Blakely and Trey Griggs, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Leslie and Mark Hull, Jackson and Company, Louise D. Jamail, Anne and David Kirkland, KPMG, LLP, Beverly and Howard Robinson, Yellow Cab Houston, Michael Zilkha. Perspectives Exhibition Circle: Bright Star Productions Inc., Elizabeth Howard Crowell, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, King & Spalding L.L.P., Leigh and Reggie Smith, Mr. Wallace Wilson, and Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc.

**EDUCATION SUPPORT**

The Museum's education and outreach programming has been made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to its Families of Steel Programming: Vera and Andy Baker, Elizabeth Howard Crowell, Melissa and Albert J. Grobmyer IV, Mady and Ken Kades, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Dillon Kyle Architecture, Inc., Leticia Loya, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Andrew R. McFarland, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Nordstrom, Cabrina and Steven Owsley, Texas Commission on the Arts, and David and Marion Young.

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Installation view of Jae Ko's *Force of Nature, 白 Shiro* at Grounds for Sculpture, 2015-16. Recycled paper, dimensions variable. Photo courtesy the artist.

**GENERAL SUPPORT**

Funding for the Museum's operations through the Fund for the Future is made possible by generous grants from Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Jereann Chaney, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Leticia Loya, Fayez Sarofim, Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister and David and Marion Young.

The Museum's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from The Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, The Wortham Foundation, Inc. and artMRKT Productions. CAMH also thanks its artist benefactors for their support including Michael Bise, Bruce High Quality Foundation, Julia Dault, Keltie Ferris, Mark Flood, Barnaby Furnas, Theaster Gates, Jeffrey Gibson, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Jim Hodges, Joan Jonas, Jennie C. Jones, Maya Lin, Julian Lorber, Robert Mangold, Melissa Miller, Marilyn Minter, Angel Otero, McKay Otto, Enoc Perez, Rob Pruitt, Matthew Ritchie, Dario Robleto, Ed Ruscha, Cindy Sherman, Shinique Smith, John Sparagana, Al Souza, James Surls, Sam Taylor-Johnson, William Wegman and Brenna Youngblood.

*United is the Official Airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.*

**CAMH MISSION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a leading destination to experience innovative art. CAMH actively encourages public engagement with its exhibitions through its educational programs, publications, and online presence.

**ALWAYS FRESH, ALWAYS FREE**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM--7PM, Thursday 10AM-9PM, Saturday 10AM-6PM, and Sunday 12PM-6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org) or call 713 284 8250.