

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chung Sang-Hwa

Ground Floor
June 1 – August 5, 2016

Greene Naftali, in collaboration with Dominique Lévy and Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition in the United States by Korean artist Chung Sang-Hwa. The joint exhibitions present an expansive overview of the artist's decades long career, with Greene Naftali exhibiting the artist's recent work in its ground floor space, and historical works on view at Dominique Lévy uptown. Chung Sang-Hwa has been a central figure in the Korean avant-garde since the 1960's, having significantly contributed to the Korean movement of *Tansaekhwa*, or "monochrome painting." The two presentations will be accompanied by a monographic catalogue, the first written on the artist exclusively in English, with an essay by curator and critic Tim Griffin.

On view at Greene Naftali are 15 paintings executed within the last decade. Engaging intimately with the canvas and pigment, Chung evacuates the brush from painting while still demonstrating a commitment to material and facture: a stance that is identifiably modern to a Western audience, but which developed over decades within Chung's native political and artistic climate. Chung's practice, as well as *Tansaekhwa* in general, emphasizes the singular process through which his works are achieved. Chung repeatedly folds a canvas coated with a mixture of kaolin clay, water and glue, to inscribe a grid into its thick surface, selectively adding acrylic to some squares, chipping it away from others. This sustained and meditative process is employed to create both calculated patterns and subtle undulations, all organized by cool geometry.

The diversity of scale Chung undertakes—from the modest to the monumental—calls attention to the radial nature of the latticed system to which Chung adheres. As Rosalind Krauss has noted, the grid denotes continuity between pictorial and physical worlds, holding in tension "connection to matter on the one hand, and spirit on the other." The canvases on view at once maintain their aesthetic autonomy, and contain inflections of the technological, the natural, and the spiritual, through their embrace of order and their quiet potential for infinite expansion.

Chung Sang-Hwa was born in Youngduck, Korea in 1932. His work is included in numerous public collections around the world, including M+ Museum, Hong Kong; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul; Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo; Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Musée d'Art Moderne de Saint-Étienne Metropole, Saint Étienne; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC; and Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago.

For more information please visit www.greenenaftaligallery.com.