



*“To love is to suffer, not to love is to suffer.”*



DSC00138, 2022  
Oil on canvas  
96.5 × 144 cm | 38 × 56¾ in



The exhibition invites viewers to behold the definition of love and the caused suffering through Wang's lens. One of the main paintings of this show, *DSC00138*, is inspired by the literature *Inferno* of the Italian writer Dante Alighieri. In his book, lust is illustrated as one of the seven deadly sins while Dante himself acknowledges the potential complicity of separating love from lust. Wang challenges viewers with her questions - Is it possible to distinguish romantic love from misguided desire? Does the pursuit of pleasure in love deserve to be punished in hell? And is suffering an unavoidable part of loving someone?

In *DSC00138*, the two figures of half angel and half demon carry out the punishment to the damned woman. The sinful woman's hands are being burnt and fed to the dog. Not only the condemned woman but also her lover has to suffer eternal punishment in hell, seeing his love in agonising pain forever. With this painting, viewers are encouraged to re-visit the quote "to love is to suffer, not to love is to suffer".







## Seonjeong Wang

b. 1990, Seoul (KR)

Lives and works in Seoul (KR)

Seonjeong Wang received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Korea National University of Arts and completed her Master's degree at the same institution. She has been selected as one of the finalists of Arte Laguna Art Prize, Venice in 2018.

In her artistic practice, she explores the relationship between social consensus on moral values and the pursuit of desire or pleasure. Portraits being her main practice, figures in her work are expressed with the use of vivid colour tones and expressive yet faint brushstrokes.

Enseoul Gallery is excited to present *Love Letters from Hell*, Seonjeong Wang's solo show, which explores the relationship between love and suffering.

"To love is to suffer, not to love is to suffer."

The quote addresses the encompassing theme of this show - loving someone involves inevitable suffering. The exhibition invites viewers to behold the definition of love and the caused suffering through Wang's lens.







*Slowly but immersed person, 2023*  
Oil on canvas  
72.5 × 53 cm | 28½ × 20 7⁄8 in





Details / *Slowly but immersed person*, 2023





*With the loving heart, 2023*  
Oil on canvas  
53 × 45 cm | 20 7/8 × 17 3/4 in





Details / *With the loving heart*, 2023





Slowly but immersed person, 2023



with the loving heart, 2023



Installation view / *Slowly but immersed person*, 2023, *with the loving heart*, 2023 and *I am the one remembers you*, 2021



*I am the one remembers you, 2021*  
Oil on canvas  
102.5 × 67.5 cm | 40 $\frac{1}{8}$  × 26 $\frac{5}{8}$  in





*A peaceful night without me, 2021*  
Oil on canvas  
91 × 65 cm | 35 7/8 × 25 5/8 in











*Happy guy*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
30 × 21.5 cm | 11¾ × 8½ in





*Red man, 2020*  
Oil on canvas  
33.5 × 24 cm | 13¼ × 9½ in



The peek into Wang's other paintings sees her express another type of affection - unrequited love and sorrow. The portraits exhibit the state of longing up someone from the abyss of sorrow. The subjects feel missing in their minds and endure longing by their whole being. Wang's practice unveils the persistence desire to be with someone we can't be with, and pour it out onto canvases. It is excruciating, even self-destructive, to always be the one longing from a hidden place.

Wang has delved into the ironical discussion of love and pain with the use of vibrant colour tones and languid brushstrokes. Her narratives pierce through hearts of viewers but in a cheerful manner. Love letters from Hell is a daring attempt to uncover the complex relationship between love and agony.



*A water lily, 2020*  
Oil on canvas  
27.5 × 19 cm | 10 7/8 × 7 1/2 in









*Sorrowful person nonetheless, 2023*  
Oil on canvas  
35 × 27 cm | 13¾ × 10⅝ in







# Seonjeong Wang

b. 1990, Seoul (KR)

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## Education

MFA, Korea National University of Arts

BFA, Korea National University of Arts

## Residency Programme

2017 Creative space yeoinsook, GunSan/KR  
2014 Art Space Free Project, Goyang/KR  
2011 Space des Arts Sans Frontières, Paris/FR

## Awards

2020 Hopper prize 2020 finalist 30, UK  
2018 Arte Laguna Art Prize 17.18, Arsenale Venice, Venice/IT  
2017 ART UNION, Seoul/KR  
2016 Ventitre01 Artworks selection, Selected artists for the new catalog, Rome/IT

## Solo Exhibition

2024	Love Letters from Hell	ENSEOUL	NL
2023	With a Loving Heart	UARTSPACE	KR
2021	My Beatrice; IDOL	UARTSPACE	KR
2018	Eden_劇	UARTSPACE	FR
2017	Absolutely My Style 'JHON-A play'	Creative Cpace Culture Inn	KR
2016	Face of Face	Palais de Seoul	KR
2015	Love Story	Gana Art Space	KR
2014	Celebrating Living	Art Space Freedom	KR

## Group Exhibition

2023	Face	Gallery In Hq.	KR
2022	I My Me Mine	UARTSPACE	KR
	The Moment Before Darkness	ARARIO Gallery	KR
	Children Crossing the Night	Seoul National University Museum of Art	KR
2020	Doll-play	Alterside, Korea SUB_ and UARTSPACE	KR
	Dialogue of Dreams	A-lounge	KR
2019	The Body of Modern Painting	National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Cheongju	KR
	The Body of Case	Gallery 175	KR
2018	Arte Laguna Art Prize 17.18 the finalist Exhibition	Arsenale Venice	IT
2017	A Matter of Awareness	2W and Gallery Weekeand	KR
	MOKCHA : Shorts from Spring and Summer	Art space boan 1942	KR
	A Research on Feminist Art Now	Space One	KR
2016	Opening Section	Art Susaegdan, Same place	KR
	BUZZ Art Show in Shanghai	Shanghai Institute of Culture	CN
2015	Scary but Enchanting	Hite Collection	KR
2014	The 4th Scout Game	Gallery Imaju	KR
2013	A Summer Resort for All	Korea National University of Arts	KR
		Art Institute's 14th graduation exhibition	
2012	I Know Why I am Unhappy	Alternative Space JeongDaBang Project	KR



