

HOWEVER WE SAW THE SAME STAR

Kim Jungman



Basel, December 1, 2023

The Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G proudly announces the highly anticipated exhibition, *However We Saw the Same Star*, dedicated to the late South Korean photographer Kim Jungman (1954–2022). This exceptional collection of works, running from December 1, 2023, to February 11, 2024, marks Kim Jungman's first solo exhibition in Europe in over four decades.

Kim Jungman, renowned for his international success in fashion, advertising, and celebrity photography, underwent a profound transformation in his artistic career in 2006. He embarked on a journey from Mongolia through the Gobi Desert to China, which became a pivotal artistic turning point. This shift led him to focus intensely on nature, landscapes, the cultural identity of Korea, and various parts of Asia. *However We Saw the Same Star* presents approximately 40 of his most captivating photographs created between 2006 and 2017, paying tribute to the legacy of this remarkable artist following his unexpected passing.

Kim Jungman's commitment to the exhibition was unwavering, despite his unfortunate passing during the detailed planning phase. His son, Neo Kim, carried forth his father's vision. The exhibition showcases images of remarkable scale and depth, with a predominant focus on Asian landscapes imbued with a meditative essence. As aptly described by Raphael Suter, Director of KBH.G, these photographs are "Masterpieces of an artist at peace." Jungman had his first and only exhibition in Europe in the mid 1970s before receiving the Young Artist Award at the International Photography Festival "Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie d'Arles" in 1977.

The exhibition title, *However We Saw the Same Star* underscores Kim Jungman's intent. Neo Kim articulates his father's thoughts, stating, "No matter where we are, East or West, we ultimately perceive the same. The landscapes in these photographs are observed with the same heart and

emotions, irrespective of our current location or roots, whether in the East or West." Regarding his photo series, Kim Jungman once explained himself: "If '*Can You Hear The Wind Blow*' is poetry, then '*East*' is literature. If '*Can you hear the wind blow*' represents my heart, then '*East*' represents my world."

Kim Jungman's artistic journey, from commercial success to his profound connection with nature and culture, is beautifully encapsulated in this exhibition. His work reflects a profound sense of unity between East and West, offering viewers an insight not only into his photographic artistry but also into his emotional world and his sense of home.

Notes to the editors:

About Kim Jungman

Kim Jungman was born in Cheorwon, Gangwon-do, in 1954. At the age of eighteen, in 1971, he moved to Burkina Faso when his father was posted there as a government doctor. The following year, Kim studied painting at the National School of Decorative Arts (Ecole Nationale d'Art Decoratif) in Nice, France. Since 1975, Kim has held dozens of solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group exhibitions. In 2000, he received the "Fashion Photographer of the Year" award, and in 2010, he was honored with the 5th Royal Salute "Mark of Respect Award." Some of his published works include "Firebird" (1984), "Instant Coffee" (1996), "Animal Kingdom" (1999), "African Journey" (2000), and "Africa, Africa" (2005).

Kim Jungman belongs to the first generation of Korean photographers who studied abroad and returned to their homeland, ushering in a new wave that popularized photography. He made his debut in 1975 with a solo exhibition at the Atelier Jean Pierre Soardi in Nice, France. Jungman gained attention when he was selected as the youngest exhibitor for the "Photo of the Day in France" in 1977. Kim has established himself as a renowned fashion photographer, capturing his subjects in the most natural poses and rejecting formulaic customs and angles. Over the past four decades, Kim has taken nearly 800,000 photos covering a wide range of subjects, including flora, fauna, people, landscapes, and fashion, showcasing his unique sensibility and style.

Since the 2010s, Kim has dedicated his attention to Korea's cultural heritage, nature, and the Korean spirit, skillfully combining elements of pop and classical art in its expression.

About Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G:

The Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the arts, providing a platform for the recognition of outstanding artistic talents, and fostering cultural exchanges in Basel and beyond.

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