



## Unfixed: A solo exhibition by Meekyoung Shin

Curator: Jonathan Watkins

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Korean Cultural Centre UK

Grand Buildings, 1 - 3 Strand, London WC2N 5BW

(Main Entrance on Northumberland Avenue)

Underground: Waterloo, Embankment, Charing Cross

12 November 2013 – 18 January 2014

Monday-Friday 10am-5pm

Saturday 11am-5pm

Closed on public bank holidays

Full access to all facilities is available for disabled visitors, including wheelchair access.

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(Thumbnail image)

Meekyoung Shin

Essays by Jonathan Watkins, Ben Tufnell, Kyung An and Jade Keunhye Lim

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## Translation – Vase Series

2000–ongoing

Soap, pigment, varnish, mirrored stainless steel plates, wooden crates

Dimensions variable

In re-creating porcelain vases that were at the heart of trade between the East and the West for centuries, *Translation – Vase Series* exemplifies Meekyoung Shin's interest in notions of authenticity, 'high art' and cross-cultural 'translation'. The packing cases not only signify the movement literally of cultural artefacts around the world, but also the kinds of translation that preoccupy Shin as the artist herself had experienced a constant state of displacement since her move to London in 1995.

TITLE (Small vase)

## Translation – Ghost Series

2007–ongoing

Soap, varnish

Dimensions variable

Unlike the highly decorative *Translation – Vase Series*, Shin removes all the surface details of the ceramics in *Translation – Ghost Series*, leaving only the form and the glass-like translucent colour. According to Jade Keunhye Lim, 'a ghost is something that exists and mediates between the world of the living and the dead, as well as a trace left behind after the disappearance of the original'. In this way, *Translation – Ghosts Series* questions our engagement with categories such as culture, nationality, and fine art, which often seem fixed and permanent. Carefully aligned along three long wooden shelves like a shopfront display, this installation is equally visible from the other side of the plate glass windows.



## Toilet Project

2004–ongoing

Soap, fragrance

Dimensions variable

*Toilet Project* is Shin's most iconic public art project to date. The project places sculptures of Buddhas and ancient Greek and Roman heads in public toilets so that visitors can wash their hands with them, thereby actively participating in what Shin calls their 'relif-ication'. The project subverts conventional ideas of artistic authorship as the sculptures are brought back into the museum environment for display as objects of art. For the exhibition, the KCC collaborated with 16 other galleries and museums in 15 cities across the United Kingdom, each putting their toilets at the disposal of the project.

## Translation – Pensive Maitreya Bodddhisatva

2004/2013

Soap, varnish

97×58×41 cm

## Written in Soap: A Plinth Project

2012–ongoing

Soap, stainless steel

2.8×1.7×2 m

*Written in Soap: A Plinth Project* is an international outdoor project that re-creates identical equestrian statues of the Duke of Cumberland in soap, replicating the now-missing original sculpture in Cavendish Square, dated 1770. At the KCC exhibition, CCTV broadcasts from London's Cavendish Square (erected in July 2012) and Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (erected in July 2013), can be viewed simultaneously. As the project expands internationally, the sculpture is displaced further from its original context in time and place, which is captured in the 'real time' relays. *Written in Soap: A Plinth Project* is a powerful reminder of the cultural lens through which we engage with historical monuments.