

ROH

PRESS RELEASE

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ROH proudly presents *Kawah Ojol*, a solo exhibition by Hyun Nahm, the outcome of his residency with ROH from October 2023 through February 2024.

Jakarta, November 2024 – ROH proudly presents *Kawah Ojol*, a solo exhibition by Hyun Nahm, the outcome of his residency with ROH from October 2023 through February 2024. This exhibition unfolds from Nahm's explorations across Indonesia, anchored in his exploration of two distinct yet intertwined aspects of life in Indonesia, its gig economy and volcanic landscape, which share an underlying precarity.

Hyun Nahm (b. 1990, Goyang, South Korea) operates at the intersection of material experimentation and alchemical processes. His practice, grounded in sculptural transformations through chemical reactions, blurs the lines between the industrial and the organic. By combining contemporary materials like epoxy, jesmonite, and polystyrene with traditional techniques, Nahm's works suggest terrains both familiar and estranged. These landscapes evoke the contingency of urban life through shifting states: melted synthetic foam coagulates into hardened masses, chemical resin stretches with a life of its own, boiling and cracking into forms reminiscent of cooled magma. Rather than a facsimile of nature, Nahm offers echoes of its processes—a dialogue with the forces that continually reshape the earth's surface.

The exhibition itself is an invocation of these dynamic processes: fragile sculptures and installations hover between form and collapse, embodying a precariousness held together by invisible forces of gravity, melting points, and radio waves. Field recordings interlace these visual forms with a sonic landscape, drawing from his physical travels. These works attempt to materialize the unstable and imperceptible machinations of contemporary labor and an economy driven by network technology. Sulfur, a material with extremely delicate physical properties, performs across the exhibition as Hyun Nahm's medium and analogy, building form through the force of magnetic fields. *Kawah Ojol* conjures encounters with the precarious existence of communities living near volatile geological faults, where daily life unfolds in the shadow of seismic unpredictability.

Kawah Ojol is presented with an interview between the artist and Mira Asriningtyas and is open by invitation on 16 November 2024 and to the public from 20 November 2024 to 5 January 2025. The gallery will be closed on Monday, Tuesday, and Public Holidays. Follow the gallery's Instagram account @rohprojects or reach out to info@rohprojects.net for further updates on operational hours and public program announcements

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In collaboration with Whistle

ROH

HYUN NAHM

Born in 1990 in Goyang, South Korea
Lives and works in Goyang, South Korea

Hyun Nahm creates landscapes with sculpture. Experimenting with the properties of industrial materials such as epoxy, cement and polystyrene, and employing traditional methods like casting and modeling, Nahm portrays another modern landscape through his explorations of the concept of the miniascape—a scaled-down and independent sample of the natural landscape, reminiscent of scholar's stones. The landscape that Nahm constructs is not based on any particular place or geographic environment, but is closer to a contingent and implicative scene made by variations in matter. As different materials entangle and melt into one another, or break open, they expand, ooze, and swell to create fragments of a landscape, much like magma. The recent Void Extraction series is an example of miniascape sculpture made in this method, and demonstrates a situation in which the emptied condition becomes, in fact, the solid.

Hyun Nahm received his Bachelor's Degree in Painting at Hongik University and his Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Seoul National University of Science and Technology both in Seoul, South Korea in 2016 and 2022 respectively. He has held a number of solo exhibitions, including *Kawah Ojol* at ROH, Jakarta, Indonesia (2024); *Burrowing at the Bottom of a Rainbow* at ATELIER HERMÈS, Seoul, South Korea (2021); *My Early Adulthood Pilgrimage is Wrong, as I Expected* at instant roof, Seoul, South Korea (2021); and *Miniascape Theory* at Art Space HYEONG, Seoul, South Korea (2020). He has participated in group exhibitions at a number of galleries and institutions in South Korea and abroad, including, among others, *Wonderland* at Lehmann Maupin, Seoul, South Korea (2024); *Natural Born Odds* at Salihara Arts Center, Jakarta, Indonesia (2023); *The Hanging Gardens of Babylon* at Nam-Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea (2023); *off-site* at Art Sonje Center, Seoul, South Korea (2023); *Busan Biennale: We, on the Rising Wave*, Busan, South Korea (2022); *Cloud Walkers* at Leeum Museum, Seoul, South Korea (2022); *Geometric Organicism* at Dorok, Seoul, South Korea (2020); and *Faces* at Museum of Art Seoul National University of Science and Technology, Seoul, South Korea (2019). Hyun Nahm undertook his first-ever artist residency with ROH in Bandung, Indonesia in 2023-24. His work is part of the public collection of Seoul Museum of Art in Seoul, South Korea.