

# CANAL PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANAL PROJECTS LAUNCHES EXHIBITION OF PROMINENT CONTEMPORARY KOREAN ARTIST  
SEUNG-TAEK LEE FOCUSING ON HIS SITE-SPECIFIC AND PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENTAL  
WORKS

EXHIBITION OPENS FEBRUARY 3, 2023



Seung-taek Lee, *The Earth Touring Beijing*, 1994. Performance documentation, paint on C-print, 35.83 x 44.88 inches. Courtesy of Gallery Hyundai.

**New York, January 3, 2023** Canal Projects, NY, is pleased to announce the opening of *Seung-taek Lee: Things Unstable* (Feb 3 - May 22, 2023). The exhibition reflects on the pioneering work of the Korean avant-garde artist Seung-taek Lee (b. 1932). Lee gained his reputation from his groundbreaking multidisciplinary practice, which includes ephemeral performances, site-specific works, photographic interventions, appropriated canvases, and sculptures. *Seung-Tae Lee: Things Unstable* is scheduled to open at Canal Projects on February 3rd, 2023.

Deploying natural elements such as fire, wind, earth, and water as conceptual collaborators, Lee's multimedia performances expanded the lexicon of the 1970s' turn towards environmental aesthetics making him an early proponent of eco-art. Celebrating Seung-taek Lee's long-standing preoccupation with the environment, Canal Projects will offer re-enactments of two of Lee's most well-known works: *Wind-Folk Amusement* (1971) and *Earth Performance* (1989-1996). Documentation and re-enactments of his performances will contextualize Lee's practice amidst today's most pressing ecological concerns while also drawing back to the global environmental movements of the 1970s.

**On Saturday, February 25th at 3PM**, Canal Projects will be hosting a reenactment of Seung-taek Lee's acclaimed 1971 performance *Wind-Folk Amusement* on Hudson River Park's Pier 45 at 3pm. First enacted on Nanji Island on the Han River in Seoul, this NYC iteration will be in partnership with Hudson River Park and led by the collaborative duo, Korean-American artists: A young Yu and Nicholas Oh.

**Seung-taek Lee** has gained national and international recognition as a celebrated experimental artist for his development of non-materialistic and non-sculptural concepts which manifest in his practice as a rejection of existing ideas and orders. Many of Lee's works reflect back on Korean shamanic lore in their attempt to form a practice rooted in folklore and traditional objects. Lee's works are in numerous collections including, among others, Tate Modern, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul (MMCA), Seoul Museum of Art, Rachofsky Collection, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney.

### **About Canal Projects**

Canal Projects is a nonprofit contemporary arts organization dedicated to supporting forward-thinking local and international artists at pivotal moments in their careers. Through production, exhibition, research, and interpretation of this work, Canal Projects intends to foster artistic practices that challenge and reflect on the current moment. Visit [canalprojects.org](http://canalprojects.org) for further details.

Canal Projects is generously supported by the [YS Kim Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) organization that provides general support grants and implements innovative programs to help underrepresented and emerging artists and their communities thrive. YS Kim Foundation envisions a world where people and communities grow and flourish with culture, creativity, opportunities, and connection. Its mission is to support, mobilize, and open new pathways of success for artists, children, young leaders, communities, and organizations. It does this by starting new initiatives and providing grants and scholarships to organizations and students.

### **Instagram**

[@canalprojectsny](https://www.instagram.com/canalprojectsny)

### **Hours of operation:**

Tuesday - Saturday, 12-6pm

### **For press inquiries, images, or other information please contact:**

[us@canalprojects.org](mailto:us@canalprojects.org)