Kim Tschang-Yeul
Five Decades of Paintings

Painting depicts the world of the artist's imagination, an interior space set free from the constraints of the real world. The artist is often described as a kind of 'master of water', and indeed, water is a frequent subject of his works.

Kim Tschang-Yeul was born in 1929 in a small town in North Korea. His family was forced to leave their home during the Korean War, and during this tumultuous period, Kim's interest in art was nurtured by his uncle, who was a sort of mentor for him. Kim's uncle owned a library, where Kim would spend hours reading and studying art. He remembers feeling inferior towards Western art and culture, but this only fueled his desire to explore and experiment with new ideas.

Kim's father was a teacher, and he encouraged his son to study art from an early age. Kim began painting and drawing at a young age, and his talent was quickly recognized by his family. At first, his approach was more hyperrealistic, but over time, Kim developed a unique style that has become synonymous with his name.

When Kim discovered the water drop during the Korean War, he thought he had found a new way to express his identity and individuality. The water drop paintings have become one of the most iconic and recognizable aspects of Kim's work, and they reflect his fascination with water and its fluidity.

Kim's work has been widely recognized and celebrated throughout his career. His exhibitions in Paris and New York have been met with critical acclaim, and his paintings have been acquired by numerous private and public collections. Kim's contributions to 20th-century art, both in Korea and abroad, are significant, and he has been a crucial figure in the development of modern Korean art.
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