

Park Sobin “The Birth of Mir”
Japan Debut Solo Exhibition Opens on September 12 (Sat)
At Space√K, Kagurazaka, Tokyo



√ k Contemporary

Sobin Park

The Birth of Mir

2026
9/12 Sat. — 10/3 Sat.
at Space √K (√K Contemporary B1F)

From Saturday, September 12 through Saturday, October 3, 2026, √K Contemporary (Shinjuku, Tokyo) will present “The Birth of Mir,” the first solo exhibition in Japan by Korean artist Park Sobin, in Space√K, the gallery's underground alternative space.

Park draws inspiration from the imagery of the dragon and the legend of the Silla-era monk Uisang and the woman Seonmyo, associated with Buseoksa Temple in Korea. Her master's thesis examined the symbolism and formative qualities of the dragon, and her practice has remained grounded in East Asian art history and aesthetics ever since. Working primarily in pencil drawing, she creates dynamic yet delicate mythological worlds, and has exhibited across South Korea, China, the United States, Italy, and Greece, at institutions including the Gwangju Museum of Art, Spazio SV in Venice, and the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York. She received the 20th Gwangju Art Award in 2014 and has served as an international professor at Hebei Academy of Fine Arts in China, maintaining an active practice across both artmaking and art education. Her work is held in the collections of the Gwangju Museum of Art and the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Gwangju, among others.

Marking her first solo exhibition in Japan, the show brings together several of Park's large-scale works alongside new pieces, offering a comprehensive view of her practice. The exhibition's title, “The Birth of Mir,” takes its name from “mir (미르),” an old Korean word for “dragon.” It refers both to the dragon that has remained Park's enduring subject and to the story of Seonmyo, who transformed herself into a dragon to protect Uisang. We invite you to experience the dynamic mythological world Park brings to life through her pencil drawings.

An opening reception will be held on the exhibition's first day, Saturday, September 12, from 5pm. Park Sobin will be in attendance, and we warmly invite you to join us.

■ **Artist | Park Sobin / 박소빈 (1971-)**



Born in Gwangju, South Korea. Park earned her BFA from Mokpo National University and her MFA from Chosun University. She has dedicated herself to drawing since her first solo exhibition in 1993, building a career as an international artist. She has held 15 solo exhibitions and numerous group exhibitions in Gwangju, Seoul, Thessaloniki, and New York. In 2009, she received the Young Artist Award from the Gwangju Museum of Art. She has participated in several residency programs, including the Young Artist Residency in Gwangju, the Gwangju Museum of Art's Force Gallery residency in Beijing, Bushwick Open Studios in Brooklyn, and the Vermont Studio Center. Her solo exhibition at the Chelsea Art Museum (2009, New York) was reviewed in ArtNews and Art in America, among other publications. Her notable solo exhibitions include Today Art Museum (2017, Beijing), Sanhe Classic Car Museum Art Space (2019, Chengdu), Laboratorium-Venezia (2019, Venice), and Elga Gallery (2020, New York).

Public Collections | Shangyi Art Museum, Hangzhou, China / Sanhe Classic Car Museum, Chengdu, China / Museum of Contemporary Art Crete, Greece / Gwangju City Museum of Art, Gwangju, South Korea / Mokpo National University Museum, Mokpo, South Korea / The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, South Korea

■ **Exhibited Works**



Top) 《The New Myth》(2023)
240×570cm
Pencil, bronze powder on paper

Bottom Left) 《The Birth of Mir》(2026)
240×450cm
Pencil, bronze powder on paper

Bottom Right) 《in love》(2023)
128×93cm
Silkscreen on paper



《Dream》(2026)
54×38.5cm
Pencil, watercolor, transparent film on paper



《The Dreaming》(2025)
100×80cm
Silkscreen on paper

【Exhibition Information】

Park Sobin “The Birth of Mir” (박소빈 「미르의 탄생」)

Dates | September 12 (Sat) – October 3 (Sat), 2026 *Closed Sundays and Mondays

Opening Reception | September 12 (Sat), 17:00–19:00

Venue | Space√K (√K Contemporary B1F)

Address | 6 Minamimachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Hours | 13:00–19:00

Exhibition website | https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/parksobin_the-birth-of-mir/

Supported by | Korean Cultural Center in Japan, Korean Cultural Center in China

*Please check the gallery website and social media for the latest information.

This exhibition is held in memory of, and with gratitude to, the late Ben Hauptmann.

■ About √K Contemporary

Opened in Kagurazaka, Tokyo in 2020, √K Contemporary presents a wide range of artistic work across genres, generations, and borders, with the aim of preserving it for future generations. Through works created across history from antiquity to the present, the gallery studies the artistic thinking of those who came before and curates with its own distinct eye. It holds solo and group exhibitions centered on carefully selected artists, spanning the pre-war era to contemporary practice.

Its exhibition space of over 300 square meters, envisioned as a gallery built in outer space, creates an innovative setting that generates new values for the works on view. √K Contemporary's mission is to share this with viewers, leave a lasting impression, and carry the record of its activities into the future, creating new chapters in the art world.

Web | <https://root-k.jp> | FB: @rootkcontemporary | X / IG: @rk_contemporary

【Press Contact】

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