



**JOAN KEE**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**THE KOREAN  
ADVENTURES OF  
ABSTRACT INK PAINTING**

CO-SPONSORED BY THE HISTORY OF ART DEPARTMENT



Joan Kee focuses on how modern and contemporary artworks figure as provocations to structures and frames of reference underpinning their creation and circulation. These include conceptions of the "world," the law, standards of value, and theories of information dissemination. Kee addresses how artworks and artists have engaged such frames and structures from a wide array of perspectives, including essays on mid-18th century Chosŏn landscape painting, socialist ink painting in Maoist China and performance art in Singapore. In her book on Tansaekhwa, a loose constellation of Korean abstract paintings first exhibited in the 1960s and 70s (University of Minnesota Press, 2013), Kee argues how the close attention to process embodied in the works of artists like Ha Chonghyun, Park Seobo, Lee Ufan, Yun Hyongkeun and Kwon Young-woo -- exemplified by the term "method" -- functioned as extended arguments for the indeterminacy of materiality in the face of relentless demands for meaning perpetuated by an all-encompassing contextualism embedded in conceptions of internationalism and newfound rubrics like contemporary Asian art.

**TUESDAY 2/7 | 6-7:30 PM | HODSON 210**  
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