

For Immediate Release:

Anya Tish
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JANG SOON IM

War

Opening Reception: Friday, January 10, 6:00 – 8:30

The Artist will be in attendance.

On view: January 10 – February 8, 2014

Anya Tish Gallery is pleased to announce the inaugural solo exhibition of Korean-born artist Jang soon Im, entitled War. The exhibition features Im's recent work, which includes painting, sculpture, digital collage, and video.

Fantastic images of warriors and staged historical battles in Jang soon Im's work are invaded by irrepressible color and pop-images from electronic media. The movies, television dramas, and video games that he grew up with, through which his own history and conception of ancient war was mediated and diluted, serve as sources of appropriation. Im's digital collages are faithful, yet saccharine, reconstructions of historical Korean paintings, through which the artist plays out his own invented vision of war. Similarly, Im's large-scale paintings are faithful pixel by pixel re-creations of classic video games which, at a young age, allowed the artist to simulate warfare and enact choices of moral consequence. In his laser-cut acrylic sculptures, Im interlaces images from popular historical dramas on Korean television with over-sexualized female figures captured from commercials aired during the broadcast.

While the work appears playful and at times humorous, the artist attempts to reflect upon significant historical events in a way that expresses his concerns with romanticized and sterilized representations resulting from the westernization, commercialization, and imposition of entertainment value upon history.

Jang soon Im recently completed the Core Residency Program with the MFAH, Houston, TX. He received his MFA in Painting and Drawing at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his BFA in Oriental Painting at Seoul National University. Im's work has been exhibited in the United States as well as in Korea and Italy. Im has received numerous awards, such as the Core Artist-in-Residence Fellowship with the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, TX; the Freeman Foundation Asian Artists' Fellowship with the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT; the 2013 10th Contemporary Visual Art Competition, AHL Foundation, NY; and the James Nelson Raymond Fellowship, School of the Art Institute Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Anya Tish Gallery ■ 4411 Montrose ■ Houston, TX 77006
Regular Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:30 – 6:00 pm