



**MAK**

Press Release

## **NOT PERFECT**

Vases by and with Young-Jae Lee from the Keramische Werkstatt  
Margaretenhöhe in Essen

Opening	Tuesday, 12 April 2016, 6 p.m.
Presentation Venue	MAK DESIGN LAB MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Presentation Dates	13 April – 26 June 2016
Opening Hours	Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Free admission on Tuesdays from 6–10 p.m.

The Korean ceramicist Young-Jae Lee comprehends the vases that will be shown for the first time in a museum context as of 13 April 2016 in the MAK presentation *NOT PERFECT: Vases by and with Young-Jae Lee from the Keramische Werkstatt Margaretenhöhe in Essen* as a “declaration of love to the terribly normal, light-hearted, and not necessarily perfect.” Embedded in the *Ornament* thematic area in the MAK DESIGN LAB, the MAK presents a dense array of 360 select works originating over the course of the last 30 years as practice pieces of the students in the Keramische Werkstatt Margaretenhöhe in Essen, which Lee has headed since 1987.

Young-Jae Lee continues a long tradition of craftsmanship with her international staff in the more than 90-year-old Keramische Werkstatt Margaretenhöhe in Essen. The East Asian view of ceramics as an art form with many interfaces between series production, craft, and work of art is united with traditional German language of form in the workshop. In her concentrated *NOT PERFECT* presentation in the MAK DESIGN LAB, the artist applies herself to the imperfect and thus very personal vases that document the learning process of her students while “pulling up” ceramic vessels.

These practice pieces, which also contain many idiosyncrasies of the ceramicists within them, are normally discarded, but not in Young-Jae Lee’s studio: it is especially the imperfect and yet individual character of the works, the effort that remains apparent in these vases, that has been and remains reason enough for her to keep the ceramics, decorate them simply, and fire them when there is enough room in the kiln. Hundreds of vases have accumulated in this way over the decades, in which the history of the

workshop, of Young-Jae Lee herself, and the personal histories of her students are held.

Lee held a guest professorship at the EWHA WOMANS UNIVERSITY in Seoul in 2015. On the occasion of her 65th birthday in 2016, she is being honored by the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw, Poland with an honorary doctor title and an exhibition in the context of the “European Capital of Culture” project for 2016. The Polish Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology in Krakow is also dedicating another monographic exhibition to the ceramicist and her work in the Keramische Werkstatt Margaretenhöhe as of April 2016.

Lee is also represented in the MAK with an eleven-part series of spindle vases, which present a symbiosis of Eastern and Western aesthetic and design, in the MAK Permanent Collection *ASIA: China – Japan – Korea*.

Press photos are available for download at [MAK.at/press](http://MAK.at/press).

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Curator	Johannes Wieninger, Curator, MAK Asia Collection
MAK Admission	€ 9.90 / Reduced € 7.50 / Family Ticket € 13 Free admission for children and teens under 19
MAK Press and PR	Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Head) Sandra Hell-Ghignone Veronika Träger Lara Steinhäuser T +43 1 711 36-233, -229, -212 presse@MAK.at www.MAK.at

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