



Press Release

Kang Seung Lee: Weeds of Cultivation
11 December 2026 – 28 March 2027
Main Gallery & Fire Station Galleries

This winter, the South London Gallery presents the first UK solo exhibition by Kang Seung Lee (b. 1978, Seoul), curated by the 2026 New Curators fellows.

Kang Seung Lee engages with the legacy of transnational queer figures, particularly as they intersect with global art histories and the AIDS pandemic. He reimagines archival materials through acts of care and reinvention. The exhibition highlights Lee's research-driven practice and demonstrates how he assembles disparate iconographies and materials to explore identity, memory, migration and creative labour. The show foregrounds the networks of kinship, activism and artistic work that have sustained queer communities in the face of significant stigma, discrimination and loss.

For *Weeds of Cultivation*, Lee presents a major site-responsive installation, as well as new drawings and embroideries in the Main Gallery. The Fire Station galleries feature related new and recent works together with videos and archival materials. Taking London's queer networks as a starting point, Lee focuses on British artists like Hamad Butt (1962–1994) and Derek Jarman (1942–1994) and incorporates foraged items from the gardens at Prospect Cottage and London Lighthouse, as well as local cruising sites including Hampstead Heath and Burgess Park.

In this exhibition, Lee continues his practice of paying tribute to a global group of queer artists and activists. These include the Chinese American fashion designer Kaisik Wong (1950–1990), the Chinese American painter Martin Wong (1946–1999), and Brazilian artist José Leonilson (1957–1993), all of whom were affected by the AIDS crisis and died from related complications. Lee has also created new drawings after Gideon Mendel's *The Ward* (1993), a photographic series focusing on John, Steven, Ian and Andre, four men who were patients in the dedicated AIDS wards at London's Middlesex Hospital. Accompanying these drawings are other works referencing different locations in London, including the Fitzrovia Chapel, which stood at the heart of the hospital complex before its demolition.

New Curators will publish a catalogue to coincide with the exhibition, featuring contributions from each of the 2026 Fellows. The publication will be available for purchase at the South London Gallery shop.

Weeds of Cultivation is curated by the 2026 New Curators fellows: Bijal Manoj Daialal (UK), chris d. reeder (USA), Dulce Ariadna Ardila (Colombia), Juan Felipe Paredes (Ecuador), Mark Mingu Cho (South Korea), Nana Ama Yeboawaa Ampofo (USA), Ruchika Dhillon (India), Runnie Exuma (USA), Sadie Barnett (UK), Seth Kriger (South Africa) and Vy Tsan (Australia).

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For further press information, images and interviews, please get in touch with Anna Jones, Head of Communications: anna.jones@southlondongallery.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

Address and Opening Hours

South London Gallery, Main Building: 65–67 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UH
South London Gallery, Fire Station: 82 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LQ
The gallery is open Wednesday 12–9pm, Thursday–Sunday, 12–6pm.

Social Media

Twitter: @SLG_artupdates
Instagram: @southlondongallery / @new_curators
Facebook: South London Gallery

Supporters

We would like to acknowledge the generous financial support of the following organisations and individuals without whom this exhibition, and accompanying publication and public programme, would not have been possible.

Exhibition donors: Ministry of Culture, Sports & Tourism of Korea, Korea Arts Management Service, and Korea Focus Support Program; Samsung Foundation of Culture; The Ampersand Foundation

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Artist Biography

Born in South Korea in 1978, Kang Seung Lee studied at the California Institute of the Arts and is based in Los Angeles. He has exhibited widely internationally, including at the 60th Venice Biennale (2024), New Museum Triennial (2021) and Gwangju Biennale (2021) and has had solo exhibitions at institutions such as Museu de Arte de São Paulo (2024) and National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Seoul (2023). *Weeds of Cultivation* is his first solo exhibition in the United Kingdom.

About New Curators

New Curators is a paid year-long curatorial training programme based in London for aspiring curators from structurally disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Led by Kerry Greenberg and Mark Godfrey, this unique programme is designed to equip the next generation of curators with the knowledge, practical skills, networks, and confidence

needed to thrive in the contemporary art world and transform it from within. The programme comprises academic seminars, skills training sessions, extensive networking opportunities, coaching and mentorship, and practical experience working collaboratively on a major exhibition.

www.newcurators.org

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) has an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions by established, mid-career and younger artists and programme of film and performance events. Its highly regarded, free Communities & Learning programme includes a peer-led young people's collective; family workshops; artist-led projects on local housing estates; and a programme for looked after children.

The SLG was founded in the 19th century by philanthropist William Rossiter to 'bring art to the people of south London'. Today the gallery comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station, which opened to the public in 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate and an artist-designed garden. The SLG is a registered charity, which raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors, individuals, and fundraising events.

www.southlondongallery.org