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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contemporary Korean Ceramics--Paired with Exploratory Digital Renderings—Coming to Blaffer Art Museum in January

HOUSTON, TX — Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston is proud to present *The Uncanny In-Between*, an exhibition and archival project featuring five Korean ceramic artists who negotiate the complexities of bicultural identities. Despite their shared commonality of Korean heritage, these artists navigate cross-cultural influence, culling from personal, familial, and cultural histories in diaspora. Curated by Sso-Rha Kang, Curator at The Carnegie (Covington, KY), the exhibition examines subversive forms that playfully weave together personal mythologies, traditional techniques, and technological interventions. The exhibition includes work by Audrey An (Philadelphia, PA), Wansoo Kim (Clarksville, TN), Hoon LEE (Allendale, MI), Hayun Surl (San Angelo, TX), and Hae Won Sohn (Alfred, NY).

The ceramic works in *The Uncanny In-Between* are also shown for the first time alongside digital renderings: each work was photogrammetrically scanned and modeled as a high-resolution 3D image by the University of Cincinnati's NFT Media Lab. These digital extensions of the works allow for alternative ways to observe, interact, and study the objects on view. The scans also allow edges and interiors of the work to be seen by museum-goers: normally, visitors only see the exteriors of ceramics on view. In *The Uncanny In-Between*, the digital world allows viewers to see not only into the creative process of each artist, but also into the unseen and hidden parts of the work. This hybrid presentation moves between the physical and its representation; as such, it metaphorically mirrors the complexities of living between places and cultures.

The exhibition will be on view through March 14, 2026.

About the Artists:

Audrey An is a Philadelphia-based artist whose creative research explores the application of digital technologies to ceramics through the lens of convergence—cultural, technological, and interdisciplinary. Reflecting on her bicultural upbringing between the U.S. and South Korea, her work investigates the notion of home, the emotional weight of domestic space, and the materiality of memory through sculptural furniture, 3D-printed clay, and hybrid digital-analog processes. Audrey holds an MFA from Penn State University and a BFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. She was the 2022–24 Artist-in-Residence at the Ceramics Program, Office for the Arts at Harvard, and has also participated in short-term residencies at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts and Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts.

Wansoo Kim is a Tennessee-based artist who earned his MFA from the University of Nebraska and his BFA from Seoul National University of Science and Technology. Recent exhibitions include Nashville International Airport (Nashville, TN; 2025), Elephant Gallery (Nashville, TN; 2025), American Museum of Ceramic Art (Pomona, CA; 2024), Red Arrow Gallery (Nashville, TN; 2023), and Jane Hartsook Gallery at Greenwich House (New York, NY; 2022). He is Associate Professor of Ceramics at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Hoon LEE is the Ceramics Area Coordinator and Associate Professor in the Visual & Media Arts Department at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. He holds an MFA in Ceramic Art from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Lee has presented more than twenty solo exhibitions and projects and has participated in artist-in-residence programs both nationally and internationally. He was also an invited artist at the International Ceramic Workshop during the World Ceramic Biennale in Korea.

Hae Won Sohn is an artist from Seoul, South Korea. Sohn's process-driven sculptural practice is an evolving dialogue between material and concept, looking at craft as a living process. She holds an MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and BFA from the College of Design at Kookmin University. Based in Alfred, NY, Sohn is currently Assistant Professor of Ceramic Art at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University.

Hayun Surl is Assistant Professor of Ceramics at Angelo State University in Texas. He earned his MFA in Ceramics from Ohio University. Before moving to the U.S., Surl completed a two-year apprenticeship in Korean traditional pottery and kiln design. He is passionate about blending Eastern and Western techniques and philosophies in his work, which is also deeply influenced by his background as an architectural interior designer—particularly in how space and form evoke responses from viewers. Surl has conducted numerous workshops both nationally and internationally, and his work has been featured in the NCECA Journal and *Ceramics Monthly*.

About the Curator:

Sso-Rha Kang is an educator and curator based in Cincinnati, OH. She is currently the Curator of The Carnegie (Covington, KY). From 2021-2023 she served as the Director of Galleries and Outreach at Northern Kentucky University. Her research interests delve into areas of institutional critique, blankness, and aesthetic experience. She has taught from 2017-2023 at institutions such as, The University of Cincinnati, The Art Academy of Cincinnati, and Northern Kentucky University. Additionally, she has curated exhibitions for The Weston (Cincinnati, OH), The Contemporary Arts Center (Cincinnati, OH) and Headlands Center for the Arts (Sausalito, CA). She was one of two Consulting Curators for the state of Ohio in the exhibition *New Worlds: Women to Watch* (2024) for the National Museum for Women in the Arts (Washington, DC). She was the recent curator in residence of [KADIST's Double Take](#) program working on the traveling exhibition [Portals, Pathways, and Space Between Us](#) (2025).

About the Exhibition:

The Uncanny In-Between was commissioned by Steven Matijcio. The exhibition is supported by funding from The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at The University of Houston and by the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA).

Event Details:

What: Opening Reception for *The Uncanny In-Between*, with Curator & Artist Talks from 2-3 pm

When: 12-4 pm, Saturday, January 10, 2025

Where: Blaffer Art Museum

About Blaffer Art Museum: Founded in 1973, the Blaffer Art Museum endeavors to further the understanding of contemporary art through exhibitions, publications, and public programs. As the gateway between the University of Houston's Central campus and the City of Houston, Blaffer Art Museum is a catalyst for creative innovation, experimentation, and scholarship. Its exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public, create community through dialogue and participation, and inspire an appreciation for the visual arts as a vital force in shaping contemporary culture.

About the University of Houston: The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter for excellence in undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth-largest city and one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse regions in the country, UH is a federally designated Hispanic- and Asian-American-Serving institution with enrollment of more than 47,000 students.

About Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts: The University of Houston's Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts is a premier institution for education, scholarship, and innovation in the arts, where every day we are cultivating the next generation of creative professionals and unlocking the potential of the arts to impact society and change the world. Our students are forging new frontiers and advancing the arts through academic excellence, innovative programming, and—together with our world-renowned faculty—ascending to the highest level of contemporary professional practice. Houston is a first choice for the arts. Houston is a city of culture and diversity, a quintessential arts destination, and a gateway to the international arts community. Steeped in the richness of diverse cultures, Houston and its engaging community network provide a citywide laboratory for research, education, and practice in the performing and visual arts.

www.blafferartmuseum.org

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Museum Hours:

Tues-Sat, 12:00pm-5:00pm
Sun & Mon, Closed