

PRESS RELEASE

MEIER PARTNERS COMPLETES THE NEW SOROL ART MUSEUM IN SOUTH KOREA THIS IS THE FIRM'S FIRST COMPLETED MUSEUM IN KOREA AND FIRST COMPLETED PROJECT SINCE RESTRUCTURING AS MEIER PARTNERS



Exteriors of the building nearing completion, January 2024

New York, New York - January 30, 2024 – Meier Partners is pleased to announce the opening of the Sorol Art Museum in Gangneung, South Korea on February 14th, 2024. The Sorol Museum is an immersive art center where art and architecture are conceived of as one, and Korean artists are in dialogue with global modern and contemporary art.

Offering an iconic destination to residents of the city and visitors alike, the Sorol Museum is part of the Gyo-Dong 7 Public Park, located in the center of Gangneung, one of the most scenic regions in Korea with a dramatic sea and mountain backdrop. The steep and undulating topography provides a natural hilltop site for the building. Outdoor spaces, gardens, forests, walking, and hiking paths are planned throughout the park, preserving and enhancing the existing landscape. This park scape connects to the art center grounds, with the ground floor of the building sitting on a naturally high plateau (elevation of +62.0m above sea level) with panoramic views.

The key design intent of connecting the building with its setting is also expressed in the constant interaction between the interior of the building and the landscape that surrounds it. The circulation takes an extroverted approach, with open views of the park embracing the visitor throughout. Gallery spaces are more introverted with controlled natural light, maximizing display space for exhibitions and creating a serene backdrop for world-class art.

The overall architectural design is inspired by the heritage of Korean Confucianism and its philosophy of art, expressed through simplicity of form, materiality, and composition and through a harmonious relationship to nature.

The immersive experience of the art center begins with the approach along a road winding up a steep wooded hill, followed by pedestrian paths meandering through the landscape of the park. The museum building is configured around a central courtyard—a feature inspired by traditional Korean architecture—and is organized into three main volumes; the north wing, a large, cantilevered pavilion; the “cube,” an immaculate volume housing a gallery and offices; and a transparent pavilion housing the main entrance, lobby, and café. Circulation follows a T-shape that provides both a means of movement between the museum’s different floors and spaces and opportunities for interaction with the outdoor exhibits, gardens, and the reflecting pool beyond. The signature ramp is a sculptural element in the landscape connecting indoor and outdoor as well as the two levels.

The museum is distinguished by the pure and serene interior exhibition spaces. The collection housed in the “cube” is contained within an extra tall space crowned with a skylight treated with opaque-translucent glass for diffused light. Modestly sized windows are strategically placed to enliven the space with controlled natural light and create framed views toward the park while still maximizing wall space for exhibits. Each gallery has a unique character, with the ability to completely control the gradation of natural light and artificial light, allowing curators to create a specific light experience depending on the requirements of the art.

Inaugural Exhibition Overview:

Lucio Fontana: Spatial Concept – February 14, 2024, to April 14, 2024

- Works presented: 6 spatial installation works, 12 paintings, 9 sculptures (total of 27 works)
- Organized by: Korean Research Institute of Contemporary Art (KoRICA) in Collaboration with Fondazione Lucio Fontana

In Dialog: Quac Insik

- Works presented: 20 paintings and sculptures
- Organized by: Korean Research Institute of Contemporary Art (KoRICA)

Dukho Yeon, Design Partner-in-Charge, comments: “The design vision was to create a modest but lyrical composition incised into this spectacular landscape that would become the perfect backdrop for art and remain forever memorable to all who visit. It is a true collaborative effort, and I am extremely proud to be part of our incredible project team. We are grateful to the city of Gangneung, Gyo-Dong Park Holdings, KoRICA, and the curators who will take care of this museum.”

MeierPartners

Guillermo Murcia, Associate Principal, comments: "The Sorol Museum sets an important milestone as a team effort and as our first project built under the name Meier Partners. Designed to convey simplicity, the Sorol Museum harmonizes with its site and context, letting the spectator engage in a personal journey of discovery interacting with the art. Gallery spaces, though dispersed, remain connected along a path of framed views, filled with abundant natural light. As it opens its doors to modern art and a global artist community, we are grateful and honored to help realize this vision."

Sharon Oh, Project Architect and Manager, comments: "The concept behind the Sorol Museum was to create a serene and simple yet memorable space that presents a harmonious blend of art, architecture, and nature. We envisioned the museum to beautifully exemplify the continuous dialogue between interior and exterior elements, creating tranquil exhibition spaces that serve as a neutral backdrop for the art. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this unforgettable project and believe the Sorol Museum will be a destination that captivates visitors."

Notes to the Editor

Major Building Materials:	White exposed concrete, aluminum curtain wall, aluminum composite panel, glass, and stone
Program:	Exhibition spaces, storage, offices, lobby, café, technical spaces
Floors:	2 above grade 1 below grade
Site Area:	31,262 sm (336,501 sft)
Floor Area:	3,222 sm (34,678 sft)

Project Credits

Partner:	Dukho Yeon
Associate Principal, Team Leader:	Guillermo Murcia
Project Architect and Manager:	Sharon Oh
Project Team:	Hyunggyu Choi Yuhwa Jeong Tetsuhito Abe Jun Kawai
Owner:	Gyo-Dong Park Holdings (GDPH)
Construction Manager:	Asia General Construction

About Meier Partners:

Each Meier Partners project is a complete, immersive environment — a harmonious whole greater than the sum of its parts. The design approach undertaken for each of our projects is collaborative and driven to create architecture that has a positive social and environmental impact. The studio's thoughtful application of cohesive design principles produces architecture that is exceptional not only in its clarity and simplicity but in its capacity to elevate and inspire.

The studio's current work in Korea continues with the Children's Dream Center and Children's Eco Museum, an integrated facility that will provide a holistic learning environment for children, for which design development has just been completed. Additionally in Seoul, Meier Partners has the Palace 73 residential project under way, as well as having recently completed the design for the landmark tower Kiwoom Finance Square for a leading IT and high-tech financial services company. In Europe, construction started last fall on The Richard Meier Tower in Jesolo, Italy. Meier Partners has been working on the ongoing master plan of the Jesolo Lido Design District, and this tower is the newest element and one of the first high-rises to be approved for construction in this seaside resort

MeierPartners

city. Recently completed in Germany are the Stuttgart Residences, a low-rise residential building, and Meier Partners also has a new residential project under way in Hanalei Bay, Hawaii. Additional projects on the boards are in Dubai and Barcelona.

Meier Partners is staffed by a diverse team of talented employees with an unmatched range of experience, positioned to offer comprehensive design services—encompassing everything from urban planning and architecture to interior and product design—to clients anywhere in the world. With projects recently completed and currently on the boards in South America, Europe, Asia, and across the US, Meier Partners continues to build on a unique legacy of visionary design. Over more than 60 years, the studio has successfully completed more than 130 projects around the globe, including celebrated buildings such as the classic Douglas House in Harbor Springs, Michigan, the iconic Getty Center in Los Angeles, and the acclaimed Jubilee Church in Rome.

**For more information on the work of Meier Partners, please visit www.meierpartners.com
Photographs and renderings courtesy of Meier Partners. Photo credit: Yongbaek Lee, Rendering credit: VIZE**

For further information please contact:

Eva Fakatselis
Communications Manager
Meier Partners Architects LLP
Email: e.fakatselis@meierpartners.com
Phone: +12129676060

MeierPartners

Attachment 1: Thumbnails of Renderings included in Press Kit Link



Sorol Art Museum, Aerial View © Meier Partners



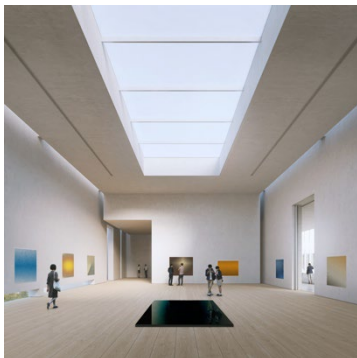
Sorol Art Museum, View From North © Meier Partners



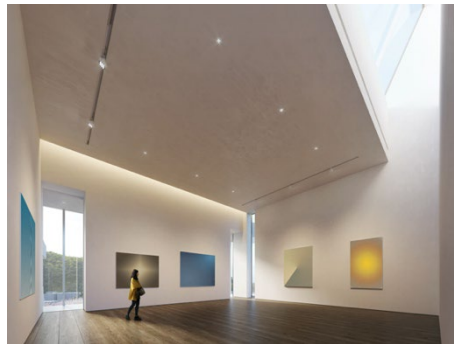
Sorol Art Museum, View From South © Meier Partners



Sorol Art Museum, View From East © Meier Partners



Sorol Art Museum, Main Gallery View © Meier Partners



Sorol Art Museum, Cube Gallery View © Meier Partners

Attachment 2: Inaugural Exhibition *Lucio Fontana: Spatial Concept Key Works*

Meier Partners Architects LLP
475 Tenth Avenue, New York, New York 10018

Telephone +1 212 967 6060
www.meierpartners.com

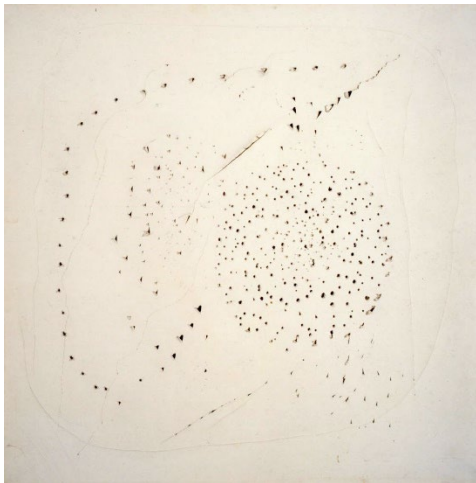
MeierPartners



Lucio Fontana, *Ambiente spaziale a luce nera*, 1948-1949/2020, Installation view at Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles Ph. Fredrik Nilsen © Fondazione Lucio Fontana, Milan by SIAE 2023



Lucio Fontana, *Ambiente spaziale con neon*, 1967/2020, Installation view at Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles Ph. Fredrik Nilsen © Fondazione Lucio Fontana, Milan by SIAE 2023

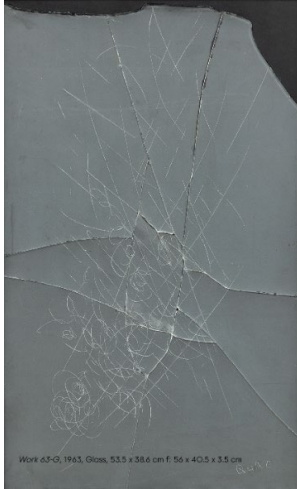


Lucio Fontana, *Concetto spaziale*, 1949, Paper on canvas, holes, incisions, 100x100cm, Fondazione Lucio Fontana, Milan © Fondazione Lucio Fontana, Milan by SIAE 2023



Lucio Fontana, *Concetto spaziale*, Attese, 1959, Aniline on canvas, slashes, 100x100cm, Fondazione Lucio Fontana, Milan © Fondazione Lucio Fontana, Milan by SIAE 2023

Attachment 3: Inaugural Exhibition *In Dialog: Quac Insik*



Quac Insik, *Work 63-G*, 1963, Glass, 53.5 x 38.6 cm f 56 x 40.5 x 3.5 cm.



Quac Insik, *Work 65-5-1*, 1965, Copper plate, copper wire, 100 x 107 cm.