



**R & Company to Open First Exhibition of Works by Hun-Chung Lee
In New York City in a Decade**

**Presentation Captures Range and Evolution of Lee's Practice,
With a Selection of All New Objects Produced in Lee's Recently Opened LA Studio**

On View April 28 - August 12, 2022

New York, NY—March 28, 2022—Hun-Chung Lee (b. 1967) is widely recognized for his mastery of 15th century Korean celadon glazing techniques, which he uses to create stunning ceramic works that embrace and blend the formal vocabularies of sculpture and functional design. On April 28, R & Company will open Lee's first exhibition in New York City in ten years, reintroducing his distinct and poetic work to East Coast visitors and capturing the evolution of his practice. With works produced entirely in Lee's recently opened Santa Monica studio, the exhibition features objects made in his "classic style", as well as those that represent his most recent experimentations with monumental scale and engagement with California-inspired color palettes. While Lee's practice is highly acclaimed in Asia, the forthcoming exhibition, titled *California: Hun Chung Lee*, offers an opportunity to increase awareness of his work and inspire equal admiration among audiences in the United States. *California: Hun Chung Lee* will remain on view at R & Company's 64 White Street location through August 12, 2022.

Born and based in Seoul, Lee earned his BFA and MFA in ceramic sculpture from Hongik University in Seoul, before moving to the United States to obtain a second MFA in sculpture from the San Francisco Art Institute. He then pursued a PhD in architecture in Korea. The range of Lee's education speaks to his diverging aesthetic and conceptual interests and his vision to merge the seemingly distinct disciplines of art, design, and architecture into a singular whole. Over the course of his career, he has created diminutive ceramic objects, a vast array of functional design works, and large-scale, multi-part installations. With each development within his oeuvre, Lee has maintained a relationship to Korean cultural heritage, and in particular the long creative history of Korean ceramics. This is especially manifest in his mastery of and ongoing experimentation with celadon glaze, fired in a traditional, hand-built kiln.

Lee's approach requires significant engagement with and knowledge of his materials and process, given the unpredictable nature of glazes. He hand-sculpts each of his pieces and paints the layers of glaze over several days, exerting the expertise he has honed over 30 years, while also embracing the mystery and surprise of the process. He is often inspired by nature, which he evokes in his delicate color palettes and the simple forms. In instances, Lee seamlessly incorporates concrete and steel into his ceramic works. In his hands, these "cold materials" appear softer, warmer, and more organic. At the same time, the inclusion of these materials adds intricacy and depth to the texture and surface of his sculptural objects. The magic of Lee's practice is in the harmony he achieves in each individual piece as well as in the dialogues he creates across different works.



For the forthcoming exhibition, R & Company will present a selection of new works that represent the chairs, benches, tables, and other functional objects for which Lee is most readily recognized and that highlight his iconic earthy palettes inspired by the beauty of Korean landscapes. R & Company exhibited a selection of analogous works at the 2022 edition of FOG Art + Design to significant collector and press interest. *California: Hun Chung Lee* will also feature Lee's most recent experimentations and stylistic evolutions. This includes works produced in monumental scale, which Lee sculpts from single large-scale slabs of clay and fires in a custom-built kiln in his Santa Monica studio. These works also showcase the maker's ongoing use of steel and concrete to produce a range of surfaces and visual experiences. The latest works evoke the colors of California, from warm, rustic tones inspired by the state's deserts to the cool, crisp blues of its beaches. The exhibition showcases the diversity of Lee's oeuvre and captures his singular interpretation of ancient techniques in contemporary contexts.

"R & Company presented Lee's last New York City exhibition in 2012, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase his work again this spring. He is an innovator that truly defies categorization. His work not only bridges fine art, design, and architecture, it also embraces the historic and contemporary in unexpected and deeply compelling ways, speaking to the importance of understanding the past and defining the future. We are looking forward to reintroducing him to New York audiences and to expanding cultural and commercial interest in his work," said Zesty Meyers, Principal at R & Company.

"We recently showed Lee's pieces at FOG and in an open studio event in Los Angeles, and the interest and enthusiasm for his vision, approach, and incredible skill was significant. He is an artist with a singular voice, who is very deserving of greater recognition across the United States and across the globe. We are excited to open his exhibition in late April after so many years and to create an experience for visitors that emphasizes the intricacy of his process and beauty and poeticism of his works," added Evan Snyderman, Principal at R & Company.

ABOUT R & COMPANY

For over 20 years, R & Company has championed collectible design, advancing the contemporary marketplace and actively growing a global collector base and clientele. Its founders, Zesty Meyers and Evan Snyderman, are widely recognized for identifying rising talent, deepening scholarship about collectible design, and developing new avenues for growth in the industry. R & Company maintains two dynamic spaces in New York: its expansive, inaugural space at 82 Franklin Street features a rotating display of interior environments highlighting gallery designers, while 64 White Street offers an active roster of solo and group exhibitions and includes a Library and Archive of more than 4,000 books, journals, and other materials. The gallery is committed to nurturing and sustaining the markets and careers of both emerging and established designers, as well as to maintaining and expanding commercial and academic interest in historic design. Its roster of international designers includes Wendell Castle, Sebastian Errazuriz, Rogan Gregory, the Estate of Greta Grossman, Serban Ionescu, Hun-Chung Lee,



Joyce Lin, Jolie Ngo, Katie Stout, Johnny Swing, Studio Job, Joaquim Tenreiro, and Jeff Zimmerman, among many others. With its vision, passion, and expertise, R & Company serves as a critical platform for experiencing 20th and 21st-century objects and discovering innovative, rare, and significant design.

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