

## A Word from the Curator

Following AHL Foundation's move to Harlem after over a decade of operating in Chelsea, it is fitting that this inaugural exhibition in the new space uptown responds to its new neighborhood. An exhibition about locality and neighborhood history, the artists in *Space Uptown* reflect on the surrounding areas of Harlem and Upper Manhattan.

Though AHL Foundation is new to the block, it shares several historical resonances with the neighborhood. The building in which it is located was at one point an art gallery, another dynamic contributor to Harlem's rich arts and culture scene. The great abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, for whom the street is named, was a fervent advocate for Chinese immigration and citizenship upon the policy proposal of Chinese Exclusion. And less than one mile away, Yuri Kochiyama hosted radical revolutionary organizing meetings for Black, Latinx, and Asian American issues and social movements out of her home apartment for over 40 years.

With these histories in mind, *Space Uptown* features artistic practices that reflect the local neighborhood. Participating artists Buhm Hong, Gyun Hur, Devin Osorio, and Dianne Smith, three of whom live and work in Upper Manhattan, consider the communities, histories, memories, and environments that make up Harlem and Upper Manhattan more broadly.

Dianne Smith's dynamic video work, *The House of Lois K. Alexander-Lane*, celebrates Harlem's Black cultural history by weaving together footage from Smith's participation as a young model in the 1985-1989 iterations of Harlem Fashion Week. Buhm Hong's intricate and labyrinthine architectural designs, rendered both digitally and on paper, draw on various architectural references from his personal biography including his current homebase in Harlem. Devin Osorio's fantastical paintings and sculptural works document his neighborhood of Washington Heights, highlighting the quotidian experiences of community, work, commuting, and familial connections. The twelve teardrop vessels filled with Hudson and Harlem River water by Gyun Hur reflect on loss, commemoration, and memory, particularly for the victims of the 2021 Atlanta Spa shooting. Installed here in Harlem, Hur's work takes on new resonances within the current and historical movements for racial justice that have taken place in this neighborhood.

Introducing AHL to the neighborhood, this exhibition hopes to bridge this new space uptown with the lineages of interracial, Black, Latinx, and Asian American solidarities that have existed for decades within this neighborhood, shaping its history as a site of artistic, cultural, and political activity.

**Amy Kahng**  
Independent Curator

## Buhm Hong

Buhm Hong was born in Seoul, South Korea in 1970. He received an MFA in Photography, Video and Related Media at School of Visual Arts, New York City. He has exhibited works in art institutions and galleries including San Diego Art Institute, Westport Art Center, Doosan Gallery in New York, and Kumho Museum of Art in Seoul. He also participated in the 2017 Jeju Biennale and APMAP in South Korea. Hong has held solo exhibitions at Art Space ZIP of the Paradise Foundation in Seoul, Suwon Art Museum in Suwon, and Soso Gallery, Paju. His work has been exhibited recently at Arko Art Center, Seoul and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Chung Ju.



*visit (master bedroom), 2016.*  
3-D Animation.

AHL Foundation's exhibitions are sponsored by



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April 30 - May 21, 2022

Artists in Uptown:

**Buhm Hong**  
**Gyun Hur**  
**Devin Osorio**  
**Dianne Smith**

Curator:

**Amy Kahng**

# Space Uptown

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## Dianne Smith

Smith's career as an interdisciplinary artist spans over twenty years. Her group and solo exhibitions include *Visions for our Future; Echoes of our Past*, Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art & Design, 2022, *Stuff*, Milstein Center, Barnard College, New York City, *Uptown Triennial*, Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York City, 2020, and Festival de Artes al Aire Libre, Museo Municipal de Guayaquil- Ecuador, Fulbright, 2013. Smith's also known for her public art installations such as Gumboot Juba, Armory Week, New York City, Organic Abstract, the New York City Parks Department, Armory Week, and Bartow Pell Mansion as the Andrew Freedman Houses, Bronx, New York, 2011. Smith is included in the following collections: The National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Brodsky Organization, Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, and Dianne Smith Papers Barnard Archives and Special Collections. She currently lives and works in Harlem, New York, and received her MFA from Transart Institute in Berlin, Germany, via the University of Plymouth, UK, in 2012.



*The House of Lois K. Alexander-Lane*, 2021.  
HD Video 1080p, 3:34.

## Gyun Hur



Gyun Hur is an interdisciplinary artist and educator whose experience as an immigrant daughter deeply fuels her practice. Gyun recently completed Stove Works Residency, Bronx Museum AIM Fellowship, and Danspace Project Writer-in-Residency. She is the inaugural recipient of The Hudgens Prize. Her works have been featured in *Cultured Magazine*, *Hyperallergic*, *The Cut*, *Art In America*, *Art Paper*, *Sculpture*, *Art Asia Pacific*, *Public Art Magazine Korea*, and more. Her interest in art making in public space led her to various artist presentations at the TEDxCentennial Women, Living Walls: The City Speaks, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and The New School among others. Gyun has contributed as an artist-writer in *fLoromancy*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and *The Forgetory*.

Born in South Korea, she moved to Georgia at the age of thirteen. She currently lives in Brooklyn and teaches at Parsons School of Design.

*There is a land beyond the river 저 건너 강 언덕편에*, 2022.  
Hand-blown glass, local river water. Courtesy of the artist.

## Devin Osorio

Devin Osorio grew up as a first-generation Dominican American in the Northern Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights, where they find inspiration from the strong Dominican presence and the cultural and socioeconomic diversity. Using shared and self-reflective symbolism, Osorio honors Dominican culture through shrine-like paintings that incorporate plants, animals and glyphs to create a visual vernacular of and for the Dominican American community. Their work has been exhibited in New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Mexico City, and Madrid. Osorio earned a BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design.



Photo Credit: Christian Rodriguez

*Dah Hot Fifth on St. Nicholas*, 2015.  
Digitally printed canvas fabric, vinyl.