

Airless Lullaby

Artist

January 30 - February 5, 2026
13 Grattan St, #402, Brooklyn, New York

Yooyeon nam

Curator

Xianzhi Fu



Who Tied the Knot Must Untie It?, 2026, Oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches

Opening Reception: January 30, 6-9pm

New York, NY — A Space Gallery is pleased to present Airless Lullaby, a solo exhibition by Yooyeon Nam. Working in oil painting, Nam constructs a psychological space in which breath becomes conceptual absence, a vacuum where emotion accumulates without release. Through saturated color, volatile gesture, and an unsettling stillness, the exhibition positions the figure as both subject and threshold: a site where tenderness, anxiety, and estrangement collide.

At the center of the exhibition is Nam's recurring cast of round-faced, nose-less characters, figures defined by their insistence on being seen. Often depicted alone or in pairs, the compositions compress narrative into proximity, bringing viewers into an unblinking encounter with presence. The "Airless" do not perform emotion; they contain it, generating tension between surface sweetness and latent threat. Hands reach tentatively, bodies lean inward, and gestures oscillate between care and harm, dissolving the boundary between intimacy and violence.

Nam's paintings sustain a striking contradiction between turbulence and quiet. While the figures appear suspended almost icon-like, the environments behind them erupt into swirling chromatic storms. This is not backdrop but pressure: a world in agitation rendered eerily silent. In the exhibition's vacuum, there is no air to carry sound—no scream, no comfort, no resolution. The result is a sustained unease, where the viewer confronts not spectacle but contained intensity, not narrative closure but a silence that refuses relief.

Formally and conceptually, Nam's figures draw from the intentional anatomical shifts of traditional Korean Buddha sculptures that idealized, believable, yet deliberately distorted. Her simplified facial structures and unconventional eyes carry the weight of cultural translation, referencing social contexts in which direct eye contact and overt emotional display may be read as impolite, while exposing the heightened friction of Western environments that demand legibility. Here, estrangement is not merely represented; it becomes a structural condition of the image itself.



In *Airless Lullaby*, the lullaby functions less as sound than as gesture: a form of care offered even when it cannot be received. These paintings do not ask to be decoded, they ask to be witnessed. The exhibition invites viewers into sustained proximity with figures that cannot breathe, cannot scream, cannot be soothed, yet remain unmistakably alive within the storm of their own silence.

A Space, founded in 2024, is a pioneering incubator dedicated to discovering and supporting emerging artists in the contemporary art world. As a forward-thinking platform, we provide young talents with the space and opportunities to experiment, grow, and connect with a wider audience. Through collaborations with visionary artists and brands, we curate cutting-edge exhibitions, immersive art events, and dynamic cultural experiences that push the boundaries of artistic expression. More than just a gallery, A Space Gallery is a hub for creativity, dialogue, and innovation, shaping the future of contemporary art.



Who Tied the Knot Must Untie It?

2026

Oil on canvas

36 x 36 inches

\$3,800



Crying Through Winter

2025

Oil on canvas

16 x 16 inches

\$1,200



Double Wick and Paradise Lost

2024

Oil on canvas

48 x 48 inches

\$6,000



Gill

2025

Oil on canvas

14 x 11 inches

\$750



Floating Barley

2025

Oil on wood panel

14 x 11 inches

\$750



Blue Suggestion

2025

Oil on canvas

14 x 11 inches

\$750



Big Head

2025

Oil on Canvas

48 x 34 inches

\$5,000



Dancing Alone

2025

Oil on canvas

14 x 11 inches

\$750



Star Sisters
2025
Oil on Canvas
36 x 24 inches

\$3,000



*That You Must Long
Alone*
2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 48 inches

\$7,000



Cherry-Go-Round
2025
Oil on canvas
20 x 20 inches

\$1,800



Threading Twins
2025
Oil on canvas
44 x 48 inches

\$6,000



Boast
2025
Oil on canvas
34 x 30 inches

\$3,200