

OCULA

Six Must-See Exhibitions over Seoul Art Week

By Sherry Paik | Seoul, 31 August 2023

Seoul's galleries and institutions continue to march on with a non-stop stream of programmes across Korea's capital city. Ocula Magazine shares a selection of six must-see exhibitions during Frieze Seoul (6–9 September 2023) and Kiaf Seoul (7–10 September 2023).



Kiyan Williams: *Between Starshine and Clay*

Peres Projects, 37, Yulgok-ro 1-gil, Jongno-gu

7 September–12 November 2023

Expect: Kiyan Williams' floating, fragmented sculpture revisiting notions of the human form.

A five-minute walk from Kukje Gallery, Peres Projects' recently expanded Seoul space is showing sculptures by Kiyan Williams. The artist, who graduated with an MFA from Columbia University in 2019, has steadily built a material language with soil. This is illustrated in works such as *Meditation on the Making of America* (2019), a map of the U.S. that began by hurling soil at the canvas; *Notes on Digging* (2020), a short film on connecting with the earth; and *Ruins of Empire* (2022), a reimaged Statue of Freedom in hardened soil.

In their first solo presentation in Seoul, Williams transforms the gallery into an otherworldly environment, submerging it in a deep, orange light. The centrepiece, titled *Between Starshine and Clay* (2022), consists of a cluster of earth and sandstone pieces suspended from a metal grille.

A few components resembling a human face and hands hint at the fact that these may once have formed a larger whole together, and that is indeed the case. The original sculpture was cast from the artist's body, but has since been dismantled beyond recognition, rejecting binary definitions of form.