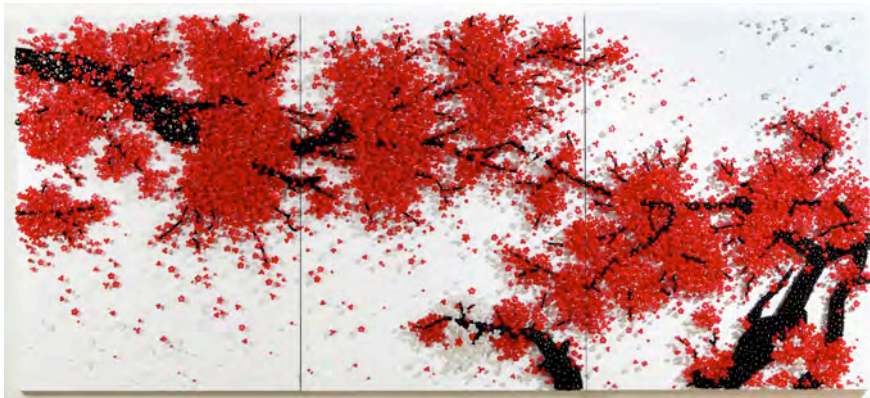


Press Release

## RAN HWANG – *Dreaming of Joy*

29 October – 5 December 2009



*Two Love Trees*, buttons and pins on wooden panels, 2009

Galerie Kashya Hildebrand is pleased to present Ran Hwang's *Dreaming of Joy*, the premiere exhibition of this artist in Switzerland. Hwang creates striking art works from common, mass-produced materials and objects, such as buttons, crystals, pins and threads. The defamiliarization and recontextualization of these everyday objects ask the viewer to engage in a new tactile visuality.

*Two Love Trees* (2009) depicts two trees in full bloom with a massive accumulation of red, black and white buttons. Like fallen petals, small heaps of red buttons are scattered on the ground reminding us of the fragility and ephemerality of beauty and love. The work *Reincarnation Orange* (2009) can be characterized through its processing of threads into dense web-like structures. Hwang nails countless pins onto a hard surface and interlinks them with a complex web of threads, which symbolize the multifaceted and myriad ways of communication, that make up our society today. The void can be read as a contemplation of our mortality and impermanence. In this way, the vessel serves as a metaphor for human existence, holding our memories, dreams and future aspirations.

Inspired by Buddhist concepts, many of Hwang's works address the interdependence between fulfilment and the void. Her works invite the viewer to engage in multiple readings of emptiness and existence, of attempting to reach the state of enlightenment and fulfilment through the conscious emptying of one's mind and spirit. Hwang hopes that the contemplation of her works evoke a feeling of meditative calm and introspection in the viewer, meditative experiences she herself had during the creation process.

Ran Hwang was born in 1960 in the Republic of Korea. After graduating from the School of Visual Arts in New York, she attended the Graduate School of Fine Arts at Chung Ang University in Seoul, Korea. The artist lives and works in New York.

Opening Reception in the presence of the artist:  
Thursday, 29 October 2009, 6–8 pm

for publications press release and images can be downloaded under:  
<http://www.kashyahildebrand.org/zurich/press/dreaming>

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