

November 20, 2024–March 2, 2025

Heji Shin's America: Part One

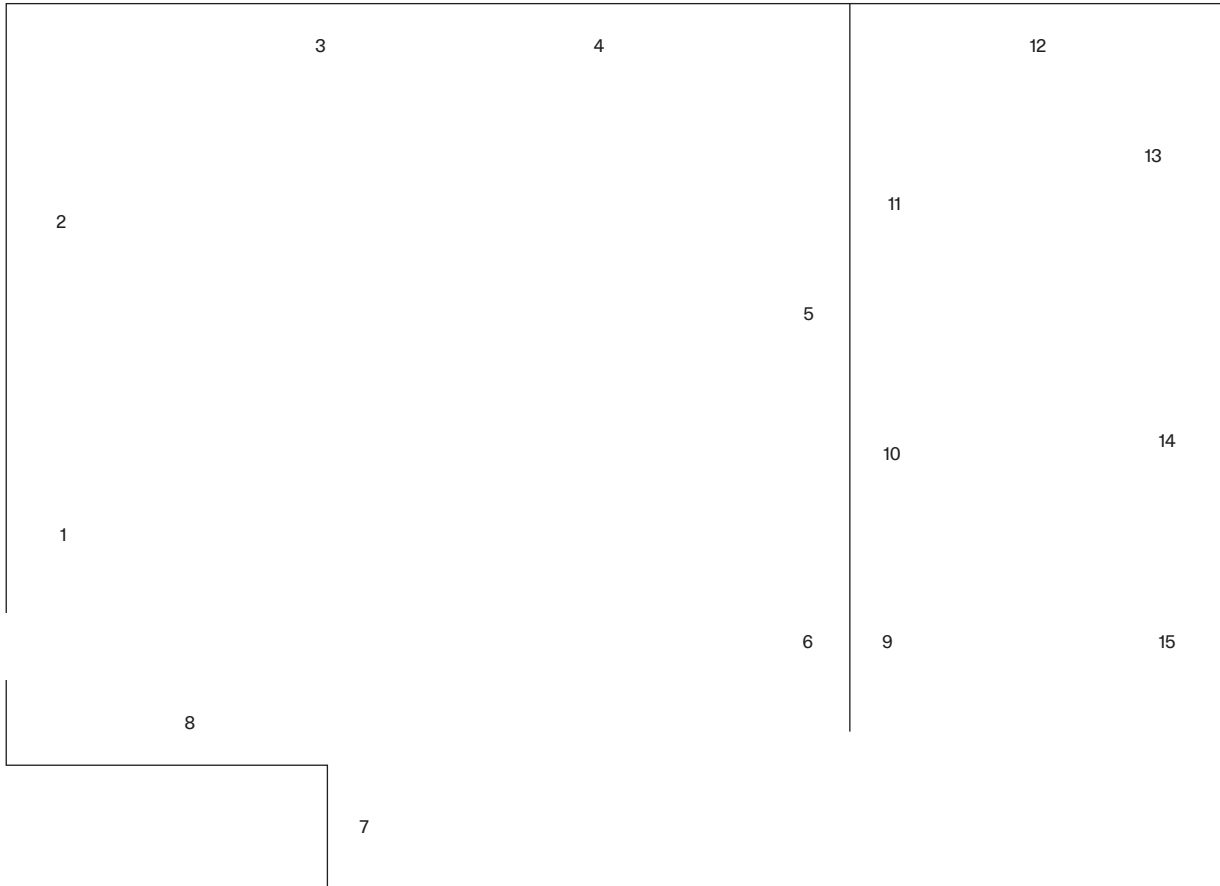
Aspen Art Museum

Heji Shin's America: Part One presents newly commissioned photographs by Heji Shin (b. 1976, Seoul), an artist based between New York City and the Catskill Mountains. Over the past decade, Shin has generated indelible images that refract and consequently shape visual culture. Previous series include images of crowning babies, screeching roosters, infamous pop stars, and jocular pigs. Vitality assumes unexpected forms within this exhibition, which features photographs of rockets in midair and waves crashing on a rocky shoreline.

In the summer of 2024, Shin embedded herself within a community of photographers of rocket launches in and around Cape Canaveral, Florida, and gained access to launches and test sites as a member of NASA's press corps. Eight resulting scenes of vertical acceleration hang on the walls of the gallery. The central subject, unmoored from hard ground, oscillates between a heroic vehicle of triumph and a toy.

Within an adjacent gallery are photographs of waves taken on the eve of a hurricane. These turbulent oceanscapes reference the work of American painter Winslow Homer, an artist renowned for his sensitivity toward humanity's station within natural phenomena. In the late 1890s, Homer depopulated his coastal scenes, emphasizing the energy, speed, and spiritual power of waves. Shin's person-less photographs honor this trajectory within Homer's practice and channel the ocean's unrelenting might.

The axial logic of the exhibition presents a nation seen through its periphery, with disparate atmospheric pressures. These are elemental images in which air and fire, sea and earth, command attention. Gravity, too, presides over Shin's scenes of surges and escape.



Gallery 2
Clockwise from left

- 1. *Crew 9 (through the clouds)*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)
- 2. *Polaris Dawn 2 (black rocket)*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)
- 3. *Vulcan 3 (white rocket with smoke)*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)
- 4. *Vulcan 2 (blue rocket with smoke)*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)
- 5. *Polaris Dawn 2 (blue Streak)*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)

- 6. *World View Legion (grey rocket)*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)
- 7. *Polaris Dawn 1 (poster rocket)*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)
- 8. *Vulcan 1 (purple rocket)*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)

Gallery 3
Clockwise from left

- 9. *Amazing Waves 1*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)
- 10. *Amazing Waves 2*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
53 × 40 in. (print: 52½ × 38 in.)

- 11. *Amazing Waves 3*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
53 × 40 in. (print: 52½ × 38 in.)
- 12. *Amazing Waves 4*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
60 × 80 in. (print: 56 × 78½ in.)
- 13. *Amazing Waves 5*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
53 × 40 in. (print: 52½ × 38 in.)
- 14. *Amazing Waves 6*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
53 × 40 in. (print: 52½ × 38 in.)
- 15. *Amazing Waves 7*, 2024
Archival pigment print on cotton paper
53 × 40 in. (print: 52½ × 38 in.)

All works courtesy of the artist, Gaga Fine Arts; Mexico City, Guadalajara and Los Angeles, and Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York and Los Angeles.

Heji Shin (b. 1976 in Seoul) lives and works in New York. She has had solo exhibitions at such institutions as KAT_A, Bad Honnef, Germany (2022), Le Consortium, Dijon (2021), and Kunsthalle Zürich (2018). Recent group exhibitions include *No Dandy, No Fun*, Kunsthalle Bern (2020), *Time Is Thirsty*, Kunsthalle Wien (2019), and the Whitney Biennial, New York (2019). Her photographs have appeared in publications and periodicals worldwide.

Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 1979, the Aspen Art Museum is a thriving and globally engaged non-collecting contemporary art museum. Following the 2014 opening of the museum's facility designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Shigeru Ban, the AAM enjoys increased attendance, renewed civic interaction, and international media attention. In July 2017, the AAM was one of ten institutions to receive the United States' National Medal for Museum and Library Services for its educational outreach to rural communities in Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley and its fostering of learning partnerships with civic and cultural partners within a 100-mile radius of the museum's Aspen location.

Aspen Art Museum

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Hours
Tuesday–Sunday, 10 AM–6 PM
Closed Mondays

Admission to the AAM is free
courtesy of Amy and John Phelan

This exhibition is organized by Daniel Merritt, Director of Curatorial Affairs.

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