

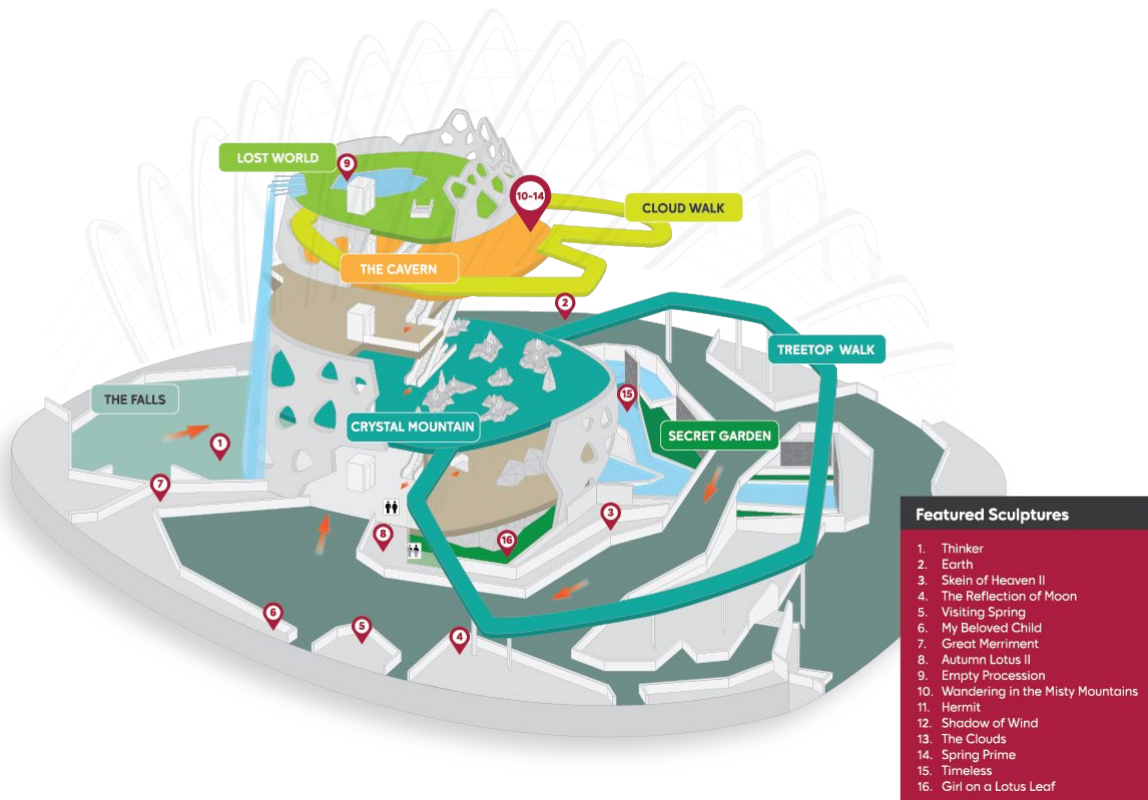
## A SCULPTOR'S SECRET GARDEN: THE FIRST FULL-SCALE ART EXHIBITION IN CLOUD FOREST

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lee Kuang-Yu (b. 1954, Kaohsiung) graduated in 1975 from Sculpture Department of National Academy of the Arts, Taiwan and pursued western sculptural technique and theory in Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando and Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Upon his return, he taught at the Taipei National University of the Arts and the National Taiwan University of Arts, after retiring in 2006 he devoted himself completely to his art practice. Lee has actively exhibited internationally from Asia, America to Europe and is collected widely in both public and private collections.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST'S SECRET GARDEN

In 1998, Lee started his lifelong project of converting a barren piece of land on the slopes of the mountains in Xizhi near Taipei into his secret garden by hand with each stone, each plant, each tree. The Secret Garden is the source of Lee's inspiration drawn from the surrounding nature and expressed creatively through the landscaping of his garden and his sculptures. He lives and works in his studio situated within the garden where his life with art and nature comes together.



## HIGHLIGHTS



### **THINKER (2014)**

**THEME: A QUIET RESPITE IN THE GARDEN**

Lee Kuang-Yu pays homage to Rodin's masterpiece, "Thinker" in his signature work with the same title that conveys the beauty of Eastern culture. In Lee's reinterpretation of this classic work of Western sculptural history, he approaches this from calligraphy which embodies the essence of traditional Chinese culture.



### **EMPTY PROCESSION (2014)**

**THEME: A QUIET RESPITE IN THE GARDEN**

This work delineates a figure dancing in a state of bliss. The expression is so vivid and infectious that viewers can actually feel the dancer's joy. Here, Lee Kuang-Yu adopts a linear element to outline the dancer's physical form and movement.



### **WANDERING IN THE MISTY MOUNTAINS (2013)**

**THEME: MAN AND NATURE AS ONE**

Lee Kuang-Yu pays tribute to Fan Kuan's masterpiece, Travelers among Mountains and Streams in the National Palace Museum collection with the primary visual component that inspired his "Wandering in the Misty Mountains". The artist transforms the shape of a hand into an enormous mountain, and uses his signature openwork technique to create a hole at the center of the hand – opening the space to one's creative imagination. The positioning of a cloud element with the hand mountain resonates with the theme of a misty mountain.



### **HERMIT (2016)**

**THEME: MAN AND NATURE AS ONE**

"Hermit" can be read as Lee Kuang-Yu's self-portrait, reflecting both his mental and physical state living in the mountains. The artist opens up the central space of the sculpture by incorporating the element of cloud into the opening – expressing his daily experience of being surrounded by mountain mist that has inspired his artistic practice.



### **TIMELESS (2008)**

**THEME: MAN AND NATURE AS ONE**

This is a signature work from Lee Kuang-Yu's recurring lotus theme. As a child, the artist often played around lotus ponds and became familiar with the life cycle and looks of the plant. Lotus displays distinctive physical features throughout the seasons. It grows in spring, flourishes in summer, withers in autumn and fades away in winter. The lotus growth cycle is reminiscent of human's life cycle – hence Lee often uses lotus as an analogy for life. A woman is depicted lying wrapped within a luscious lotus leaf in the embrace of nature. "Timeless" is also the artist's attempt to express the fleeting blissful moment when human and nature co-exist in harmony.



**GIRL ON A LOTUS LEAF (2016)**

**THEME: MAN AND NATURE AS ONE**

The work portrays a girl lying on a lotus leaf in a peaceful and relaxed state of existence with nature with her back facing the viewer. The beautiful young body of the maiden in her prime is in stark contrast with the withering lotus – a universal reality that everyone must come to terms with aging.