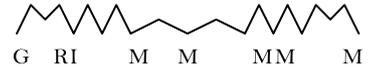


RE MOVE



Chan Sook Choi

Curated by Jaewon Choi

Opening | 22 October 2016, 2-6 pm

Exhibition | 23 October - 12 November 2016

In search of a new relation to the world, surrealists have dreamed of reinventing language and images. At the heart of this endeavor lies the liberation of things from their original context, like extracting single words from a greater body of work and combining them into spontaneous and abstract constellations. This is an attempt to understand both the inner meaning and the contextual meaning of things, comparable to the idea of semantics and pragmatics in linguistics. People who are far-removed from their homeland and build their lives in a foreign country can be seen as a manifestation of this idea of dislocation.

For her works presented in the exhibition *Re move* (a double meaning for both „to move again“ and „to eliminate“), the Korean artist Chan Sook Choi has been working with so-called comfort women (forced prostitutes in Japanese brothels during World War II), as well as elderly Japanese women who migrated from Japan to Korea after marrying Korean laborers.

The starting point of these works is Choi's journey to Japan in 2010 where she tried to find and document places that appeared in the photo albums of her grandmother, who was one of the aforementioned elderly Japanese women who immigrated to Korea after the Japanese colonial period. While the works on display were brought about from the artist's interest in understanding her own identity as a woman in the grand scheme of things, they also contain elements that were "captured in a wide net" as she traced the footsteps of her grandmother's journey.

Choi left Berlin and moved to Yangji-ri, a so-called Minbuk Village, located north of the South Korean civilian access control line (CACL) near the demilitarized zone (DMZ). The village sits on flat land with a clear line-of-sight to and from North Korea and was originally built for strict control over civilian access in addition to its propagandic effect. Designed after Israeli kibbutz communities, houses in the village are similar to terraced houses in which two families live in different units under the same roof. The homes were intentionally designed to appear as single houses to boast the superiority of South Korean rural villages against their North Korean counterparts.

What notably captured the artist's attention in Yangji-ri were not modern propaganda techniques but points of light from everyday objects such as street lights, welding machines, space heaters, crosses or curtains. Choi refers to these as stars that act as coordinates to find herself. She searches for a language that does not yet exist and that expresses her experiences of language as inadequate signs. By tying together traces of the comfort women, Japanese migrants, and the village of Yangji-ri, the exhibition moves far-removed narratives and eliminates the distance between them.

Text by Jaewon Choi

Chan Sook Choi lives and works in Berlin and Seoul. She graduated with a double-major in Visual Communication (Diplom), Experimental Media Arts (Master) and a Meisterschüler degree in Media Art with Prof. Maria Vedder from the University of Arts Berlin. She won the grand prize of the International Media Art Award hosted by Bibliates & Berlin Pergamon Museum in 2008, followed by a selection in 2009 as an artist supported by NaFöG, a City-Berlin funding program for emerging artists. In Korea, 2010 she was selected as the New Artist Trend (NArT) by Seoul Art Foundation and started producing performances such as "Private Collection" hosted by Namsan Art Center in the same year. In addition, she was selected as the Artist of Tomorrow by Sungkok Art Museum in 2011 and as a New-rising Artist at Alternative Space Loop in 2013. Her works are exhibited internationally including the National Theater (KR), the Queens Museum in New York (US) and the Saecheon Galaxy Contemporary, Chongqing (CN).

The exhibition is realized in collaboration with NON Berlin.

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The exhibition *Re move* is supported by Arts Council Korea.



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1
Archive Yangjiri (2016)
 multimedia installation, photos, sound, models, sand sculptures, texts
 dimension variable
 * Music: Spiegel im Spiegel for Cello and Piano (Arvo Pärt)
 Leonhard Roczek - Cello
 Herbert Schuch - Piano
 No copyright infringement is intended.

2
Graviry's rainbow in unprepared time (2009)
 DV, loop, projection on acryl
 2:00

3
FOR GOTT EN I (2016)
 prints on transparent foil
 32 works, each 21 x 30 x 3 cm

4
FOR GOTT EN II (2016)
 drawing on paper
 20 x 30 cm

5
Hiroshima (2016)
 HDV, loop, sound
 7:20

6
Wornded Recollection I (2015)
 HDV, sound
 7:30

7
Wornded Recollection II (2015)
 HDV, sound
 8:15

8
Wornded Recollection III (2016)
 mixed media installation on desk
 dimension variable

9
WE remember ME preview (2015)
 HDV, sound, experimental documentation
 7:15

