

Suyeon Yun

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

A Memorial To Memorials came out of my long-standing interest in the relationship between history and the individual. Drawing upon Julian Barnes's claim that 'history is that certainty produced at the point where the imperfections of memory meet the inadequacies of documentation', I have been photographing since 2011 a series of monuments where memories of historical events meet urge of documentation.

And then in 2013, 'A Memorial To Memorials' returned to Cheorwon where two- Korea's borderline has been over 60 years also where my concrete question, 'What have I learned from the context of the history?', occurred.

The work consists of two different parts of 'document' and 'camouflage'. Part 1 follows the documentation that is simply made from the multiple exposures on one negative and each image on a negative is linked to a certain political event from dispatch of North Korean espionage in the 60's to the death of two leaders of two-Korea along with Cheonan warship affair in 2010. However as more exposures piled up on my negative, more ambiguous images were left behind. These overlapped images were transformed into kaleidoscopic patterns by repetition of symmetrical folding and rotation.

Part 2 is focused more on people who own the scene with their present activity. I made daily clothes with printed patterns from 'Part1' and selected people to wear them in the photograph. The final image was made at the site of their working or living, for example the construction site of a memorial near the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea).

Throughout the process of my work, repetition is an important tool that serves to help strive for a deeper understanding of the border area near the DMZ where the 'commemoration of the past' and the 'camouflaging of the presence' co-exist.

Artist Biography

Suyeon Yun South Korea

b. 1972, Seoul, Korea
Lives and works in Seoul, Korea

Suyeon Yun currently lives and works in Seoul. She earned her BFA from Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University and MFA from Yale University. Mostly focused on war and history such as North Korean immigrants and war participants and refugees, her disinterested perspective of them shows how disaster cannot be generalized. Her solo exhibitions include LA CALLE, Void Gallery, Seoul (2009), NEW HAVEN, NO HAVEN, Insa Art Center, Seoul (2009). She has also participated in many group exhibitions including A Room of His Own (2014), Real DMZ Project (2013), Platform in KIMUSA, Seoul (2009). She was awarded numerous times among them the 7th Daum Prize, Geonhi Art Foundation, Seoul (2008), KT&G Photography Fellowship, Seoul (2010), Alice Kimball Travel Grant (2009), and Tierney Fellowship (2008).

Education

- 2008 Yale University, New Haven CT. (MFA)
- 2003 Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University, Boston MA. (BFA)

Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 Water War (Aug), Topic Gallery, Korea
- 2009 'La Calle', Void gallery, Seoul Korea
'New Haven, No Haven', Insa Art Center, Seoul Korea

Group Exhibitions

- 2014 A Room Of His Own (Dec), Art Sonje Center, Korea
Temporary Removal (Jun), Space Mass, Korea (Curating)
Waterscape (Jun), Korea
Water Bodies, Spaces, Chennai India
Photography and History, Gwangju Museum of Art, Korea
- 2013 Photography and Society, Daejeon Museum of Art, Korea
Relativity in City, Total Art Museum, Korea
From The North, Art Sonje Center, Korea
Real DMZ Project, Cheorwon, Korea
Ficciones; M.A.P, Seoul, Korea (Curating)
Expand of Memory, Gallery Grigo, Korea

- 2012 Vague Conversation, Kust Doc, Seoul, Korea
Phantasma-Korea, Nanji Gallery, Seoul, Korea
City Within The City, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Australia
Tampere Art Factory “Fastbreak”, Tampere, Finland
Trespass, Nomad Site #01, Seoul Korea (Curating)
- 2011 Up in the Air, Ilmin Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
City Within the City, Art Sonje, Seoul Korea
- 2010 Seoul Photo Festival, Seoul, Korea
‘Going From Now Here’, PPAC, Philadelphia PA.
- 2009 ‘Platform in Kimusa’, Seoul, Korea
NYPH New York Photo Festival, Brooklyn, New York
2,191 Days and Counting, Brooklyn, New York
Benefit Exhibition at Powerhouse Arena For the Iraq Veterans Against the War
- 2008 Photo 2008, Gallery 339, Philadelphia PA, USA
Yale MFA Photo ’08, Danziger Projects, New York, NY, USA
Thesis Show, Green Gallery, Yale University, USA

Awards and Residency

- 2014 Visual Art Project Fellowship, Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture
- 2013 Nomadic Artist’s Residency, Arts Council Korea
- 2011 Nanji 6th Artist’s Residency, Seoul Museum of Art
Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation Artist Grant, Korea
- 2010 KT&G Photography Fellowship, Korea
- 2008 Tierney Fellowship_ Tierney Foundation, USA
Alice Kimball English Travel Grant, Yale University, USA

Publication/Text

- 2013 Contemporary Art Magazine, Korea
- 2011 Private Photo, France
Punctum Magazine, India
- 2009 Aperture 195, USA
- 2008 Voice of People, Korea

2006 Welcome to Korea, Han Yang University Press, Korea

2005 The Paris Review 175, USA

Collections

Yale Art Museum, USA

Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP), USA

Philadelphia Photo Arts Center, USA

Tierney Foundation, USA

Cheorwon, Korea

KT&G Art Foundation, Korea

Geonhi Art Foundation, Korea

Epson Korea, Korea