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HAEGUE YANG TO PREMIERE “CONDENSATION” AT KOREAN PAVILION

Press preview: Thursday June 4, 10:30 am

Korean Pavilion
La Biennale di Venezia
Giardini di Castello, 30122 Venice, Italy
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Arts Council Korea is pleased to announce “**Condensation**,” a solo presentation of new work by **Haegue Yang** at the **Korean Pavilion** of the 53rd Venice Biennale from June 7 to November 22, 2009. The exhibition will feature **three newly commissioned works** in sculpture, video, and installation that reflect the breadth of Yang’s work and her concern with the potential of marginalized spaces and the possibilities for alternate forms of public engagement.

“Condensation” is curated by **Eungie Joo** of the **New Museum**, New York, and is the first solo exhibition by a woman artist in the Korean Pavilion at Venice. Yang’s work will also be installed in the Arsenale as part of Daniel Birnbaum’s main exhibition, “**Making Worlds**.”

In the exhibition “Condensation,” Haegue Yang explores hidden spaces that might be considered marginal, but to the artist constitute profound backdrops for understanding: vulnerable sites where informal development can occur. Using condensation as a metaphor, Yang seeks direct communication with unknown people through a seemingly intangible path of exchange—one that imparts nonfunctional yet ontologically significant information.

Yang’s three new works include the video essay ***Doubles and Halves—Events with Nameless Neighbors*** (2009), which integrates footage shot in two overlooked places—the declining neighborhood of Ahyun-dong, Seoul, where Yang used to live, and the seasonally abandoned Biennale grounds near the Korean Pavilion during the off-season. Juxtaposing nonsynchronous voiceovers in Korean, English, and Italian, with a lingering visual composition that features the residue of residents and their activities at these sites, the artist speculates on the experience of disappeared inhabitants in order to consider the unwantedness and resonance of marginal spaces.

For her sculpture ***Sallim*** (2009), Yang reproduces a full-scale model of her Berlin kitchen. *Sallim* (roughly translated from Korean as “running a household”) considers the noncommercial space of the kitchen as a site of preparation for action and the organization of life. Yang’s kitchen is, as she says, “free from many of the things that are attributes of the ordinary concept of work in terms of social effectiveness/productivity,” thereby nurturing a different connection to the outside world, to others, and to her work. The main gallery, features the ambitious installation ***Series of Vulnerable Arrangements—Voice and Wind*** (2009), a labyrinthine

system of stacked venetian blinds. Six ventilators placed around the gallery generate wind at various intervals, altering both the stability of the blinds as suspended barriers and the movement of visitors. Scent emitters infuse the installation with moments of sensory experience, calling upon the visitors' subjectivity as a key element in the definition of the space. As in previous works and her new light sculptures in the "Making Worlds" exhibition, in *Voice and Wind*, Yang introduces electricity as an invisible connection between objects, people, and ideas.

About the Publication

A fully-illustrated, bilingual Korean-English catalogue featuring a conversation between Haegue Yang and Eungie Joo as well as contributions by artists Young-whan Bae, Gimhongsok, siren eun young jung, Beom Kim, and Chan-Kyong Park, curator Jeesook Beck, architect Kun Young Cho, and the legendary art collective Reality and Utterance (현실과말언/Hyun Sil Gwa Baleon) will accompany the exhibition.

Support

"Condensation: Haegue Yang" is organized by Arts Council Korea and Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia and is curated by Eungie Joo in association with the New Museum, New York. Major support for the exhibition and publication is provided by Hanjin Shipping and Samsung Foundation for Culture. Major support for production and public relations provided by Kukje Gallery, Seoul. Additional support provided by the New Museum, New York, and Barbara Wien Gallery, Berlin.

About the Artist

Haegue Yang (b. Seoul, 1971) received her B.F.A. from Seoul National University, Fine Arts College in 1994, and her Meisterschüler from Städelschule Frankfurt am Main, in 1999. Her works have been exhibited internationally including Anyang Public Art Project 2007; BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht; the 55th Carnegie International, Pittsburgh; Cubitt Gallery, London; Kunsthalle Hamburg; Portikus; REDCAT, Los Angeles; 2006 Sao Paulo Biennial; the 2008 Turin Triennale; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and most recently, Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, and The Power Plant, Toronto. Yang lives and works in Berlin and Seoul.

About the Commissioner

Eungie Joo, Keith Haring Director and Curator of Education and Public Programs at the New Museum was appointed the first non-national commissioner for the Korean Pavilion for the 53rd International Venice Biennale by the Arts Council Korea in October 2008. Joo joined the New Museum in 2007, after her four-year tenure at REDCAT in Los Angeles, as the founding director and curator of the Gallery. At the New Museum, Joo spearheads the institution's unique educational and public programs, perhaps most notably, the pioneering Museum as Hub, a curatorial/education hybrid collaboration between five international partner organizations.

About ARKO and the Korean Pavilion

The Korean Pavilion at the Venice Biennale was established by ARKO (Arts Council Korea) in 1995, and has functioned as a bridge for Korea's contemporary art to enter the world stage. ARKO was established in 1973 in accordance with the Culture and Arts Promotion Act of Korea. Its ultimate goals are to raise the quality of cultural life for all Koreans and to provide a vision of a more promising future for Korea. Many of ARKO's programs aim to cultivate the artistic creativity of artists and to promote an appreciation of the arts among the public.

