

KOREAN PAVILION

At the 56th International Art Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia



THE WAYS OF FOLDING SPACE & FLYING

A PROJECT BY MOON KYUNGWON & JEON JOONHO
COMMISSIONED & CURATED BY SOOK-KYUNG LEE

AT GIARDINI IN VENICE, ITALY

EXHIBITION: MAY 9 - NOVEMBER 22, 2015

PRESS CONFERENCE: MAY 6, 2pm | VERNISSAGE: MAY 6, 3pm

www.koreanpavilion2015.com

Venice, May 6, 2015 – The Korean artist duo **Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho** will present a new site-specific work in the **Korean Pavilion** at the 56th International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia from **9 May to 22 November 2015**. Working in collaboration since 2009, the duo has developed a critically acclaimed body of work, including the film installation *News from Nowhere*, which was first shown at the **dOCUMENTA (13)** in Kassel in 2012.

The Ways of Folding Space & Flying (2015), a new multi-channel film installation (duration 10'30"), explores an **archaeological quest** into human civilization that interweaves history with visions of the future as told through a **future-retrospective** narrative. It also alludes to the institutional structure and historic evolution of la Biennale di Venezia itself, the scale and influence of which have been acquired within a shifting socio-political landscape.

The title of the project stems from the Korean words *chukjibeop* and *bihaengsul*. Originating from Taoist practice, *chukjibeop* means a hypothetical method of contracting physical distance and of allowing one to travel a substantial distance in a short space of time. *Bihaengsul* refers to another supernatural power, based on one of the oldest human desires, to levitate, fly and travel across time and space. In the history of Eastern culture, these ideas have been explored not only as means of meditative practice but also as methods to reach a state of complete emancipation of both mind and body from physical limitations and natural forces. **They reflect the human desire to surpass the physical and perceived barriers and structures that bind us, despite the apparent absurdity of such imaginings.** While some scientific theories and hypotheses have supported the possibility of realising such ideas, they remain largely in the realms of parable and fantasy, epitomising our intrinsic yearning to transform the world around us.

Moon and Jeon's previous projects, such as *News from Nowhere* (2012), focused on creating an **interdisciplinary and transnational platform**. This involved scholars and experts from various

academic and professional fields, such as philosophy, science, film, design and architecture. The platform was intended to yield a concrete outcome: a film, publication or an archival exhibition that documented the collaborative process. Questions formed and considered through the platform were centred on the function and meaning of art, while acknowledging the constantly evolving nature of the topic. The past participants of the project include the architects Toyo Ito and MVRDV, composer Toshi Ichianagi, curator Hans Ulrich Obrist, fashion designers Tsumura Kosuke and KUHO, film director Lee Changdong, and poet Ko Un among many others.

The artists continue their quest in *The Ways of Folding Space & Flying*, heading towards an unknown future that is at once an end and an origin. The project is part of an ongoing inquiry for Moon and Jeon to make sense of what they perceive as a fundamental function of art in the increasingly uncertain and precarious environment we are collectively facing. Instead of trying to provide a definitive thesis, the artists propose ways of imagining the future where existing notions of art and creativity may no longer be relevant. As with the seemingly illogical and ludicrous concepts of *chukjibeop* and *bihaengsul*, for them, art is a crucial yet curiously unexplainable facet of complex human desires that compel us to imagine, dream, wonder and challenge.

To learn more about the Korean Pavilion exhibition, please visit: www.koreanpavilion2015.com

THE IMAGES of *The Ways of Folding Space & Flying* may be downloaded at the following link: bit.ly/koreanpavilion

CATALOGUE PUBLICATION

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue publication with critical essays by **Sook-Kyung Lee** and **Mary Jane Jacob** (Professor and Executive Director of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, U.S.) and a number of conversations held by the artists **Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho** with international curators and professionals from diverse disciplines including **Hans-Ulrich Obrist** (Co-director of the Serpentine Galleries, U.K.), **Amit Sood** (Founder of the Google Art Project and Director at the Google Cultural Institute), **Yu Jae-Won** (Professor of Linguistics at the Department of Greek Studies and Bulgarian Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea) and **Kim Dae-Shik** (Professor of Electrical Engineering at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology).

ABOUT THE COMMISSIONER & CURATOR | SOOK-KYUNG LEE

SOOK-KYUNG LEE is a curator, researcher and writer based in London. Lee is currently Research Curator at Tate Research Centre: Asia-Pacific and the Curator of Asia Pacific Acquisitions Committee at Tate. She was previously Exhibitions & Displays Curator at Tate Liverpool, where she curated a number of exhibitions including *Nam June Paik* and *Doug Aitken*. Lee received her PhD in Art History and Theory from University of Essex.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS | MOON KYUNGWON & JEON JOONHO

MOON KYUNGWON & JEON JOONHO's recent artistic endeavors center on *News from Nowhere*, a collaboration project that focuses on creating an interdisciplinary platform. *News from Nowhere* series was first presented at Kassel dOCUMENTA 13 (2012) which expanded as a site-specific project as it travelled to the Sullivan Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2013). The next edition of the project will unveil at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich in August 2015. The duo has participated in other notable group exhibitions including Fukuoka Triennale, Fukuoka (2014); *Beyond and Between*, Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul (2014); Singapore Art Biennale, Singapore (2013); *Home Works 6*, Beirut Art Center, Beirut (2013); Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2013); and Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju (2012).

MOON & JEON were the recipient of Multitude Art Prize by Multitude Foundation (2013); Noon

Award at Gwangju Biennale (2012); 2012 Korea Artist Prize, co-organized by the National Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art, Korea and SBS Foundation (2012).

MOON KYUNGWON lives and works in Korea. She received an M.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts, U.S. and M.F.A. & B.F.A. from Ewha Womans University, Korea. Selected solo exhibitions include *PROMISE PARK*, Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media, Yamaguchi (2014); *GREENHOUSE*, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul (2010); and Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka (2004). Notable group exhibitions include *Art and Collective Intelligence*, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media, Yamaguchi (2013); Talin International Film Festival, Talin (2011); *Plastic Garden*, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai (2010); *A Different Similarity*, Central Istanbul, Istanbul (2009); and *Now Jump*_Opening Show, Nam June Paik Art Center, Yongin (2008).

JEON JOONHO divides his time between Busan and Seoul, Korea. He received an M.A. from Chelsea College of Art and Design, U.K. and a B.F.A. from Donggeui University, Korea. Selected solo exhibitions include *His Niche*, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul (2014); *Bless You*, SCAI the Bathhouse, Tokyo (2009); *Hyper Realism*, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris (2008), Arario Gallery, Cheonan (2008) and Perry Rubenstein Gallery, New York (2007). Notable group exhibitions include *Lifelike*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2012); Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama (2011); *Your Bright Future*, LACMA, LA and The Museum of Fine Art, Houston (2009); *Metamorphosis*, Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris (2008); and *All About Laughter*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2007).

For more information on the recent projects by MOON & JEON, please visit: www.newsfromnowhere.kr

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