

Jewyo Rhii with Jihyun Jung, Collaborative
Project Exhibition 'Dawn Breaks, Seoul'

24 March - 14 May 2017

A third collaboration followed by 2015 New York Queens Museum,
2016 Gwangju Biennale

Art Sonje Center presents "Dawn Break, Seoul," an exhibition by Jewyo Rhii & Jihyun Jung from March 24th to May 14th 2017. The collaboration of the two artists began at the Queens Museum in 2015 and was featured in the Gwangju Biennale 2016. Following these previous iterations, Art Sonje Center is pleased to offer an opportunity for the artists to further develop their third project through an expansive exhibition.

The title "Dawn Breaks" derives from the English expression, "Night falls, dawn breaks," which is deployed here as a metaphorical proposition for the peculiar conditions under which the two artists work. Dawn may be understood as the time during which the authoritatively regulated language of society is asleep, and countless words that have not clearly pronounced become freed. It is a liminal time—between consciousness and its opposite—through which the artists find a suitable corollary for the space of exploring without restrictions, or being reduced to the rational structures of the day.

The first performance by the two artists of different generations began asking a question "what were you doing in 1979?" on the stage where the objects and images made by the artists were placed. The conversation, which developed while the artists brought the objects into play, humorously unraveled their childhood fascination with certain physical materials. The conversation that prompted the recollection of their memories and mutual interest in the hand-made laid out "an innocent timeline of making" in turn.

More recently, Rhii and Jung altered the format of their performance from a parade to one in which the movements of objects are laid within a concrete timeline for a specific function. They also invited fellow artists and makers to place or hang their poems, paintings, and sculptures on the apparatuses and activate them creating a series of narratives.

In the exhibition, the objects become like a multitude of small theaters, each filling out the space with its physicality while functioning as a basic component of the theater, and serving as a mechanism for weaving floating images into a certain narrative. These objects move along a trajectory strategically set by the artists while they transport and transform the narratives.

The exhibition *Dawn Breaks, Seoul* presents installations and drawings, which uncover the narratives embedded within each performance-object and render explicit the connections between the performance and the core attributes of materials. Workshops held during the exhibition period will disclose the process of building a performance that originates from a plot generated by the use of the objects.

About the artists

Jewyo Rhii introduced her works of art, which she produced for about 5 years from 1998, mainly in the form of books in which an environment of the birth of works and the gradual flow of time are revealed. She published three art books in which urgent efforts that a man makes to improve the physical and mental environment of the everyday life are disclosed humorously in the form of photos, drawings and unique makings. Afterward, being interested in herself as an artist in non-retrospective nowness, coincidences that vary depending on the places, spontaneous events, and unfamiliar space and in the dynamics of each exhibition factor, she engages in many exhibition activities. Her interest of other's matter through the experience of her living abroad in many different cultures shows in the ephemeral objects with temporary materials and fast drawings that deal with the insecurity, resentment, deficiency and vulnerability in individual existence. She often uses none-finite installation method, expressing the manner of hesitation and the pendency in the exhibition. Her recent works are distinctly characterized as undisclosed stories arising from a unique relationship that the other person's drifting life toward a particular fate has with the artist's continuing life. Rhii's unique method of physically, even corporeally recording those moments and stories in her recent pieces is a striking moment in the current progression of her work.

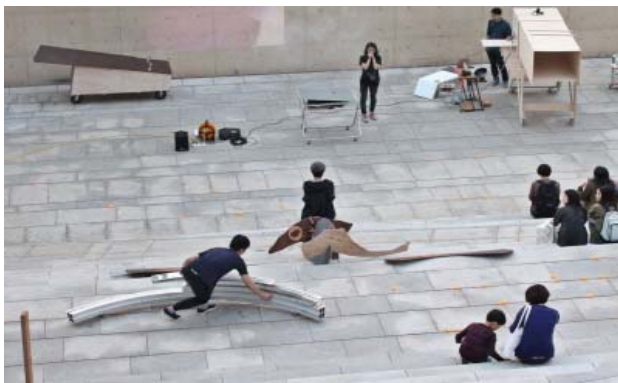
Jihyun Jung pays special attention to an individual's psychological state and immediate reaction to unfathomable events and unique situations that unexpectedly happen in the daily life. Based on this observation, he associates to his own experiences being situated in similar events, which then lead to collecting, combining, and recording found objects around him.

Art Sonje Center endeavors to present the contemporary context and critical discourse through an open perspective, and is devoted to experimental and multidisciplinary practices with the exhibition as our central focus. Established in 1998 as a private museum, Art Sonje Center is located in the Jongno district of Seoul, in Sogyeok-dong.

1. Images of Installation view



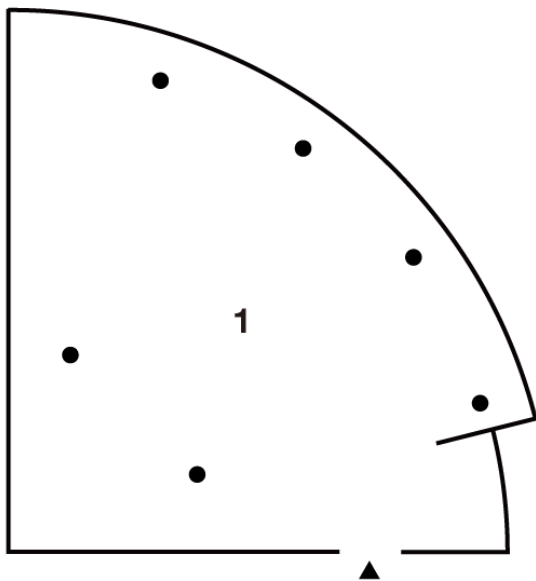
Jewyo Rhii and Jihyun Jung, *Dawn Breaks 2015*, 2015
Installation view of Queens Museum, NY



Jewyo Rhii and Jihyun Jung, *Dawn Breaks 2016*, 2016
Installation view of Gwangju Biennale 2016, Gwangju



2. Floor plan



1.
Jewyo Rhii and Jihyun Jung, *Dawn Breaks, Seoul*
2017, Installation and performance, dimensions variable