

**SALZBURGER
KUNSTVEREIN**

Jeamin Cha
Freeze Response
2 March – 28 April 2024

Opening: 01.03.2024, 20:00

Performance: *Two Recitations*

With Marta De Masi and Eunjeong Oh.

01.03. 19:00, 22:00 and 02.03. 11:30

Artist Talk: *Illness Rearticulated*

Jeamin Cha in conversation with Mirela Baciak

02.03., 12:00

Jeamin Cha's artistic practice compels us to search for a language that articulates pain beyond clinical terms. Central to the exhibition is Cha's essay film "Nameless Syndrome," an exploration of the psychological landscapes and stories of the "undiagnosed"—those who suffer without proper diagnosis, often women, whose symptoms are marginalized within a capitalist medical system marked by patriarchal biases. Drawing from her personal history and extensive research, Cha delves into the stories of Korean women and their battles with illness, bringing to light the sometimes dismissive approach toward women's health conditions. Through both direct interviews and a reflective process of unlearning, she reveals a critical examination of how illness and its narratives are constructed and understood within a capitalist framework. The choice of a dark blue ambiance, coupled with the use of patient mattresses as seating within the exhibition space, intensifies the clinical atmosphere, thereby inviting the audience to immerse themselves in the psychological spaces of those who are asked to be patient.

Accompanying the film are a series of drawings and a performance. The drawings, derived from Cha's own reflective process, offer visual insights into the emotional and sensory dimensions of her subjects' experiences. They embody her contemplative engagement with the material and immaterial aspects of illness, and her attempt to visualize the psychological landscapes shaped by pain. The performance deepens the exploration of the language shaped by medical vocabularies. Through recitation, Cha creates a space for reflection and connection, inviting the audience to engage with a sequence of words derived from medical terminologies, as a performer repeats them in succession until their meanings evolve and undergo transformation, searching for a language that can adequately express the complexities of illness.

Freeze Response challenges us to reconsider the dynamics of patience and patienthood. By rethinking these terms, Cha empowers the notion of waiting and observing as active, powerful states of being, rather than passive submissions to authority. This recontextualization is crucial in understanding the exhibition's title, which plays on the psychological 'freeze response'—typically seen as a passive reaction to trauma—suggesting that in stillness and observation, there can be a form of resistance and understanding.

Curated by Mirela Baciak.

Performance: *Two Recitations*

With Marta De Masi and Eunjeong Oh.

01.03. 19:00, 22:00

02.03. 11:30

The performance *Two Recitations* is commissioned and produced by Salzburger Kunstverein.

Jeamin Cha (*1986, Busan, Republic of Korea) is an artist based in Seoul whose practice spans film, performance, installation, and writing. Cha's work deals with the relationship between the psychological, emotional, and physical. She approaches the reality of individuals through processes of field studies and notes personal interviews of hard-to-articulate experiences. She is also interested in preserving unknown areas that are gradually shrinking as technology advances.
jeamincha.info

List of Works

Jeamin Cha

Freeze Response

1

Nameless Syndrome (Patch Version), 2022, single channel video, 4K, 24 min, color/sound, courtesy of the artist.

2

Six drawings

From top down

- *Sensory Function4*, 2023, Gouache on paper, 21 x 29,7 cm

- *Sensory Function1*, 2023, Gouache on paper, 21 x 29,7 cm

- *Sensory Function2*, 2023, Gouache on paper, 21 x 29,7 cm

- *Sensory Function3*, 2023, Gouache on paper, 21 x 29,7 cm

- *I and you are in the Flow*, 2023, Gouache on paper, 21 x 29,7 cm

On the right hand side

- *Tube*, 2023, Gouache on paper, 21 x 29,7 cm

3

Two Recitations, Performance, 2024, 10~15 minutes, courtesy of the artist.

The performance is commissioned and produced by Salzburger Kunstverein.

For further information please get in touch with:

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SALZBURGER KUNSTVEREIN / Künstlerhaus

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Hours Exhibition: Tue-Sun 12-7pm

Hours Tula Bistro: Mon-Fri 11am-9pm

Öffnungszeiten Ausstellung: Di-So 12-19 Uhr

Öffnungszeiten Bistro Tula: Mo-Fr 11-21 Uhr