



EAST ASIAN VIDEO FRAMES: SEOUL

25 September – 22 November 2015



Curator: Minna Valjakka

mixrice: *Plants that Evolve (in some way or other)*, 2013

For 2015, the three-year video project, which started in January 2013, focuses on the contemporary art scene in Seoul and its topical themes. Along with the transformations in economy and lifestyle, urbanization has also redesigned the characteristics of architecture and public space. The continuous spatial changes have had an everlasting impact to all forms of life in the capital and its neighboring towns and villages -- including plants and peoples relation to nature.

mixrice is a collaboration of Jieun Cho (b. 1975) and Chulmo Yang (b. 1977), established in 2002 in Seoul. Working both as curators and artists, mixrice has explored a broad spectrum of artistic practices, including, among others, theater and participatory art workshops, art activism, cartoons, design, video and photography. In the recent years, the artworks of mixrice have been exhibited in 12 Sharjah Biennale, Jakarta Biennale in 2013, APT7_Asia Pacific Triennale in Brisbane 2012, the 6th Gwangju Biennale 2006, as well as many galleries and museums in Seoul. The art residency in Cairo in 2010 inspired also publication of art books, *Badly Flattened Land* (Forum A, 2011) and *Message to Dakar* (Sai Comics, 2013).

The prominent question in mixrice's oeuvre is immigration: the reasons, processes, routes, outcomes, memories and affects of people moving within and across the borders. In *Plants that Evolve (in some way or other)*, mixrice approaches the questions of immigration, transformation and place-making by turning their focus on plants and people's relation to them. Because of irreversible urban development – and its shortcomings – varied types of vegetation, from thousand year's old trees to useful plants grown for food, occupy surprising sites and are nurtured, protected and transplanted by locals and immigrants alike. From the original mixed media installation including photography, video and cartoon, a two-channel video art work *Plants that Evolve (in some way or other)*, is exhibited in Pori Museum. The work explores the overlapping stories and interrelations of plants, submerged landscapes and people in Maseok, a small industrial city where mainly illegal migrant workers live and in a traditional village, Miryang, whose elderly residents resist the construction of high voltage transmission towers. The notions of belonging and absence are intertwined with the fate of the plants and their ability to evolve in unbelievable circumstances.

In co-operation with: mixrice (Jieun Cho and Chulmo Yang)
 (<http://mixrice.org/info/infohead.html>)

For more information:

Chief curator (temporary) Anni Venäläinen tel. +358 44 701 7601 anni.venalainen@pori.fi
 Curator, Dr Minna Valjakka minna.valjakka@helsinki.fi