

**EAST ASIAN VIDEO FRAMES: SEOUL****24 November 2015 – 17 January 2016**

Curator: Minna Valjakka

Kim Insook: *A Letter from Seongbukdong*, 2015

The three-year video project has reached the final destination on its endeavors to investigate the topical issues and trends in the contemporary art scenes of Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul. In the beat of these megalopolises, numerous artists reveal, question and modify the interdependence between art, city and life. The preceding video art works have explored the impact of urbanization to people and nature in Seoul and its surroundings, whereas Kim Insook's (b. 1978, Japan; currently based in Seoul), recent work sheds light on the importance of arts and artists to the livable city.

Kim Insook's art is based on interrelations. She carefully observes the daily subtleties that may easily pass unnoticed and builds a relationship with a community through artistic activity. The results of the interrelation are revealed in photography, video, performance and installations. During 2002-2015, Kim has held 9 solo exhibitions both in Korea and abroad, including Gwangju Museum of Art, Mio Photo Award Prime (Japan) and CAN foundation Old house. She has also participated in over 30 group exhibitions, such as Daegu Photo Biennale and Haikou International Youth Experimental Arts Festival (China), and won artist-in-residence programs by National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Korea) both in Goyang and in Changdong, as well as in the Residency Studio by the Cultural Office of the City of Düsseldorf (Germany).

A Letter from Seongbukdong follows the little artist Ari's encounters in the local art scene in Seongbukdong. Elementary school student Ari enjoys singing Korean folksongs and painting. She lives in Seongbukdong, a neighborhood in Northern Seoul, known for Korean cultural heritage sites and past residencies of famous artists and writers. Because of this culturally rich basis, many institutions, troupes and social enterprises working in visual arts have settled in Seongbukdong. In this cultural ambience, not only artists but also local people have created diverse cultural projects with their own approaches and employing alternative art spaces.

Many art spaces and artists invited Ari to visit them and during her journeys through alleys and cultural heritage sites in Bukjeong village, the current interconnectedness of art, artists and this neighborhood is revealed also for the viewer. However, the presence of commercialization and gentrification is getting stronger even in Seongbukdong and the future of this specific area remains unclear: in what kind of community Ari will grow up?

In co-operation with: Kim Insook (www.kiminsook.com)

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