



EAST ASIAN VIDEO FRAMES: SEOUL

6 February – 5 April 2015



Curator: Minna Valjakka

The third destination: Seoul. The three-year video project which started in January 2013 now focuses on Seoul's contemporary art scene and its latest transformations. Despite talented artists continuously exploring globally relevant issues, Korean contemporary art remains rather unknown to Finnish audiences. The aim of the project during its last year is to represent some of the leading Korean artists and their thought-provoking recent art works.

Internationally acknowledged **Yang Ah Ham** (b. 1968, Seoul) is known for her video projects which can continue for years. By oscillating between the reality, dreams and fictions, her works reveal the absurdness of contemporary society.

After her studies in Seoul, Yang Ah Ham moved to New York. In 1998, she received another MA in Media Art from New York University. For 2006-07, Ham won a residency at the *Rijksakademie voor beeldende kunsten* in Amsterdam and for 2010 at the *Platform Garanti contemporary Art Center* in Istanbul. Currently, she lives and works in Seoul and in Amsterdam.

Originally, *The Nonsense Factory* installation (2013) consists of six parts, rooms of a imagined factory. The parts addressed themes such as the ubiquity of images, happiness as an institutionalized ideology, capitalism and the monetary economy, the cultural snobbery in the arts, the precarious state of idealistic values, and the endless competition inevitable to a growth-oriented society. For Pori Art Museum, Ham has re-created *Nonsense Factory*, a single channel pilot project (2015) of the original installation. From the perspective of a reporter that visits the imaginary factory to interview a variety of staff members, Ham leads us to question the role and status of individuals amidst the future complexities of ever-growing globalization.

Her video works have been exhibited, among others, in Art Rotterdam (2014), Tophane i Amire Culture and Arts Center, Istanbul (2013), National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul (2011), Artsonje Center, Seoul (2010), Gwangju Biennale (2010), Shanghai Biennale (2008), Busan Biennale (2006), and the ArtPace, San Antonio, Texas (2000). In 2013 Ham was nominated for *Artist of the year* by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Seoul) with *The Nonsense Factory*.

In co-operation with: Yang Ah Ham (<http://vimeo.com/user13166556>)

For more information:

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