

**Los Angeles Filmforum and GYOPO present
Hayoun Kwon: Virtually Real
Sunday, December 10, 2023, 7:30 pm
At 2220 Arts + Archives**

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2023 is our 48th year. www.lafilmforum.org

In person: Hayoun Kwon

World premiere of “The Butterfly Dream”, Commissioned in part by Los Angeles Filmforum, through a generous grant from the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts.

Dedicated to Bérénice Reynaud

Filmforum commissioned five artists to make new work, generously funded by the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. We've hosted three thus far, and Hayoun Kwon is our fourth.

Los Angeles Filmforum is thrilled to welcome internationally acclaimed media artist Hayoun Kwon to present her immersive digital animation work in a rare solo screening in Southern California. Originally from South Korea, Paris-based Kwon employs numerous tools – including first-person game engines, VR, and various forms of CG – to conjure worlds both real and imagined in a startling documentary mode that blurs the lines between evidence and speculation. Kwon is a singular artist whose dazzling visuals and technological engagement are fully matched and dimensionalized by her powerfully critical perspective and subtle conceptualizing and framing of her subject matter.

Her early breakout film *Lack of Evidence* conjures landscapes and spaces of uncertain stability in telling the dramatic story of a young Nigerian's application for asylum in France. In three remarkable pieces from 2013-2015, Kwon examines the border and DMZ between North and South Korea, allowing three very different technical and aesthetic strategies to enable deep critical and poetic investigation of the implications of this highly politicized frontier. In her more recent work, her subjective and vivid documentary mode of inquiry has employed VR and interactivity as the spectator inhabits fantastic but complex landscapes of unexpected social and political resonance.

With support from the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts, Filmforum has been honored to commission a new work from Hayoun Kwon, and this film - *The Butterfly Dream* - will have its premiere in our screening, with the filmmaker in person to discuss her work.

Program and notes by Mark Toscano. Special thanks to Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts.

“Born in 1981 in Seoul, **Hayoun Kwon** is an artist and filmmaker based in France and South Korea. Working across documentary, virtual reality and animation, Kwon investigates the geopolitical questions of border and territoriality and their relation to national identity, memory, and history. Her works have been shown at the Cinéma du Réel Festival at the Centre Pompidou in Paris (2014), the 62nd International Short Film Festival in Oberhausen, Germany (2016), Doc Fortnight at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (2017), and the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2017). In addition, Kwon has participated in the Real DMZ Project, a contemporary art project based on research conducted on the Korean Demilitarized Zone in South Korea and its border area.

“The Korean Demilitarized Zone, also known as the DMZ, is a buffer zone between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) defined as a result of the Korean War.

Kwon's two works, *489 Years* (2016) and *Model Village* (2014), invite the audience into the prohibited area of the DMZ. By merging both the fictional aspect and the reality of the border, the works reflect the DMZ's particular geopolitical condition as an aftermath of the Cold War and an interwoven part of everyday life in the two Koreas." - Paris Jomadio, <https://sites.saic.edu/cate/2018/04/05/on-hayoun-kwon/>

GYOPO is a collective of diasporic Korean cultural producers and arts professionals generating and sharing progressive, critical, intersectional and intergenerational discourses, community alliances, and free educational programs in Los Angeles and beyond. www.gyopo.us

Screening:

Lack of Evidence

2011, digital, color sound, 9:20

A short film presenting the tale of a young asylum seeker from Nigeria confronted with the French administration. - Palais de Tokyo, <https://palaisdetokyo.com/en/exposition/hayoun-kwon/>

Model Village

2014, English subtitles, 10 min.

Pan Mun Jom

2013, silent, 4 min.

489 Years

2016, English subtitles, 12 min.

The Bird Lady

2018, English subtitles, 7 min.

Winner of the Prix Découverte des Amis du Palais de Tokyo 2015

Thanks to a recollection that Daniel, a former drawing teacher, told her one day, Hayoun Kwon is offering us access to the imaginary world of a mysterious woman, nicknamed "The Bird Lady". - Palais de Tokyo, <https://palaisdetokyo.com/en/exposition/hayoun-kwon/>

Kubo, walk the city

2021, English, 13 min.

The Butterfly Dream

2023, silent, world Premiere, approx. 4 min.

This program is supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles, and the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

Contact us at lafilmforum@gmail.com.

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