

Kate-hers RHEE

Interdisciplinary Visual Artist

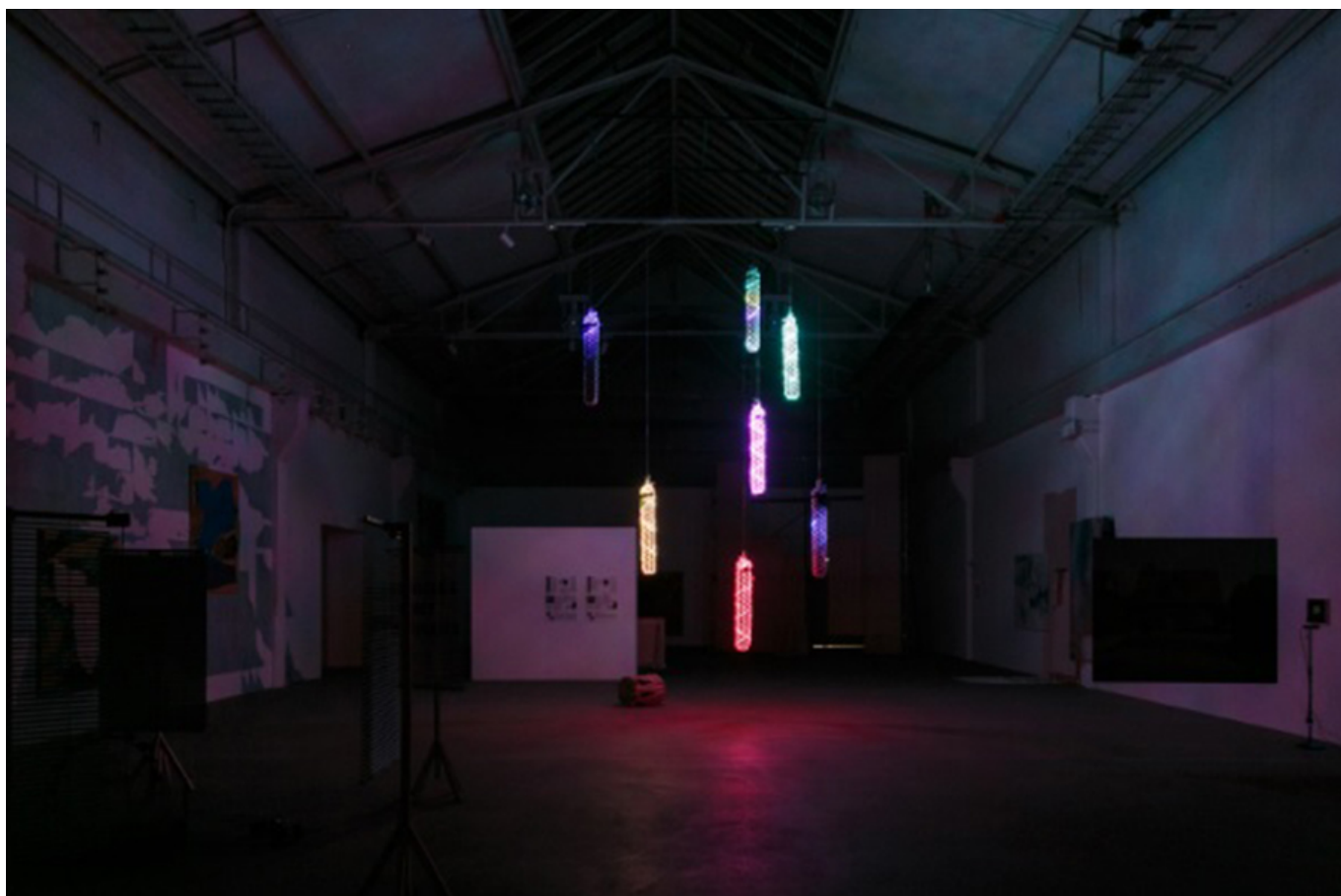
Interdisciplinary visual artist Kate-hers RHEE (1996/2004) explores transnational identity and the construction of self, while discussing gender, migration, and global inequality. Her work engages with the assessment of, and post-colonial discourses surrounding ethnographic collections. She invents new cultural artefacts, ethnographic symbols and living breathing anthropology. Above all, her work seeks to be a catalyst for spiritual transformation through materiality and meticulous processes. RHEE was born in a poor neighborhood in Seoul, the dynamic capital city of South Korea. Rejected because of her gender (her birth parents had counted on having a son, after already birthing three girls, and being number four (an unlucky number in Asia), RHEE was abandoned immediately. Months later, RHEE was transnationally adopted to a racially segregated working class neighborhood in Macomb County, Michigan, where she grew up right outside of Detroit, in between the likes of Eminem and Kid Rock. Her experiences negotiating her position in-between, specifically black and



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white identities, are at the core of her artistic practice.

Her work is a continuous process of questioning and exploring the boundaries of identity, race, and culture. She uses various media, including performance, video, and sculpture, to create a multi-layered and immersive experience for the audience. Her practice is deeply rooted in her own experiences and the collective struggles of marginalized communities. She aims to challenge dominant narratives and create a space for dialogue and reflection. Her work is a testament to the power of art as a tool for social and political engagement.



Exhibition view of 'Archipelago'_Reinbeckhallen, Berlin, Germany_2018

□Photo credit: Aleks Slota

Q&A

Q. Please tell us about your works, including your creation process.

I work interdisciplinary in performance, social intervention, sculpture and video. My praxis explores transnational identity and the construction of self, while discussing gender,

migration, colonialism and global inequality. My current project engages with the (re)assessment of, and post-colonial discourses surrounding ethnographic collections and the archeological archive. I invent new cultural artefacts, ethnographic symbols and living breathing anthropology. Above all, my work seeks to be a catalyst for redemption and spiritual transformation through materiality and meticulous processes.

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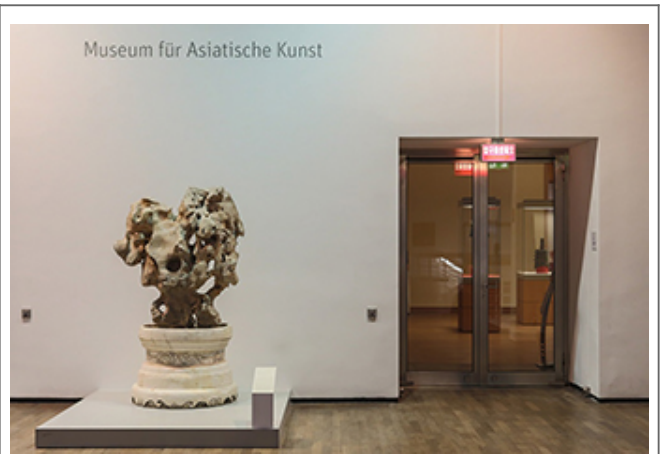
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Performance view of 'Minimally Korean'_Participatory food performance_30

min_Humboldt Lab Dahlem Berlin, Berlin, Germany_2015

□Photo credit: Aleks Slota



Installation view of 'The Way To Apgujeong Rodeo'_ 'Intersections',

Asian Art Museum, Berlin, Germany_2016

□Photo credit: Aleks Slota



Dual Nationality Holder Tongue Twister_HD video, color, sound loop, 16:9_10:37 min_2018

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Q. What do you think your representative work or exhibition is? Why do you think so?

My solo exhibition, Past Persephone, just opened on the 15th of March 2019 in the Meanwhile, Elsewhere project space of Galerie Irrgang in Berlin, Germany. In the exhibition, I draw on ancient cosmology legends, Native American and ancient Greek mythology, and East Asian historical (mis)memory about the Comfort Women. I incorporate Korean traditional instruments associated with harvest and folk artefacts with modern beauty consumer goods. My artistic praxis subverts the male gaze and dismantles the orientalist perspective.

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Installation view of Seven Sisters_Mixed media_'Past Persephone', Meanwhile.Elsewhere, Berlin, Germany_2019

□Photo credit: Marcelina Wellmer

Q. About inspirations, motivations and episodes.

My research-based practice is intuitive and situated in both library research and studio practice. The starting point of a project tends to be autobiographical, that is, based on personal life experience. Major works have been created from my experiences living in Berlin as a foreigner for the past decade. For example, I felt compelled to make the interactive performance work, the German Speaking Project Part 2, after being physically threatened by Neo-Nazis on the public transportation in Berlin, as a reaction against growing racism and anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe. Later, the Chocolate Kiss series were produced, as I, as a non-White, non-Black foreigner, started confronting white Germans about the problematics with continuing to call a popular candy a racist name.



Exhibition view of 'MuEon Daeon'_Korea Verband, Berlin, Germany_2019

□photo credit: Aleks Slota



Installation view of 'Homogenous Infiltration for Sogo'_Korean traditional hand drum, crocheted wool felt_40 x 24 x 6.5 cm_'I like Korea and Korea likes me', Korean Cultural Center, Berlin, Germany_2018

□Photo credit: Aleks Slota



Installation view of 'The Female Shaman'_Mixed media: korean

traditional hourglass drum, handmade crocheted wool and sewing thread_44x51x44 cm_2018
'Archipelago', Reinbeckhallen, Berlin, Germany_2018

□Photo credit: Sebastian Egler

Q. Please tell us about your future plans and working directions.

As a late bloomer, I am just getting my feet wet! But seriously, I never imagined that I would manage being a full time artist. It was only when I was in my second year of graduate school, already considered an "older student," that I even contemplated becoming an independent artist. Before that I thought I was bound to work in museum education, already studying early child art education and working in pedagogy in two major art museums. In that moment, I won a coveted

scholarship that not only would pay my tuition with a living expense until I graduated but also provided me a research stipend and a travel grant. With this newfound confidence, I set out to change the world for the better as an artist. And I'm still at it!

Q. 如何 在 艺术 领域 取得 成就

A. 首先 要 有 对 艺术 的 热爱 和 执着 的 追求。 其次 要 有 扎实 的 专业 基础 和 持续 的 学习 态度。 第三 要 有 创新 的 思维和 勇于 尝试 的 精神。 第四 要 有 良好 的 沟通 能力和 团队合作精神。 第五 要 有 坚持不懈 的 毅力和 面对 困难 的 勇气。 第六 要 有 敏锐 的 观察 力和 深刻 的 思考 能力。 第七 要 有 广泛 的 人脉 和 资源。 第八 要 有 良好 的 职业道德 和 社会 责任感。 第九 要 有 持续 的 自我 提升 和 学习 动力。 第十 要 有 良好 的 心态 和 抗压 能力。 只有 综合 具备 以上 这些 素质 和 能力， 才 能 在 艺术 领域 取得 成就。

2019 인천아트플랫폼 국외작가 결과보고 전시
IAP Artist-in-Residence Program 2019

상복이
어울리는 엘렉트라

Mourning
Becomes Electra

2019.08.19.-08.28.

Opening Reception
2019.08.22.
17:00

인천아트플랫폼 창고갤러리
IAP Warehouse Gallery

케이트
허스
리
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hers
RHEE



□Mourning Becomes Electra(상복 어울리는 엘렉트라)□_Exhibition Poster

Q. 상복 어울리는 엘렉트라, 케이트 허스 리?

A.



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