



PRESS RELEASE

[Exhibition] 'Our Friendly Neighbours'

The KCCUK Autumn exhibition Opening 8 September in London.

The Korean Cultural Centre UK with **Art Center Nabi** present their new exhibition 'Our Friendly Neighbours', opening Thursday 8 September until 5 November at the KCC Exhibition space at 1-3 Strand, London, featuring major works by Yiyun Kang, the artist duo Bang & Lee and Jinjoon Lee.

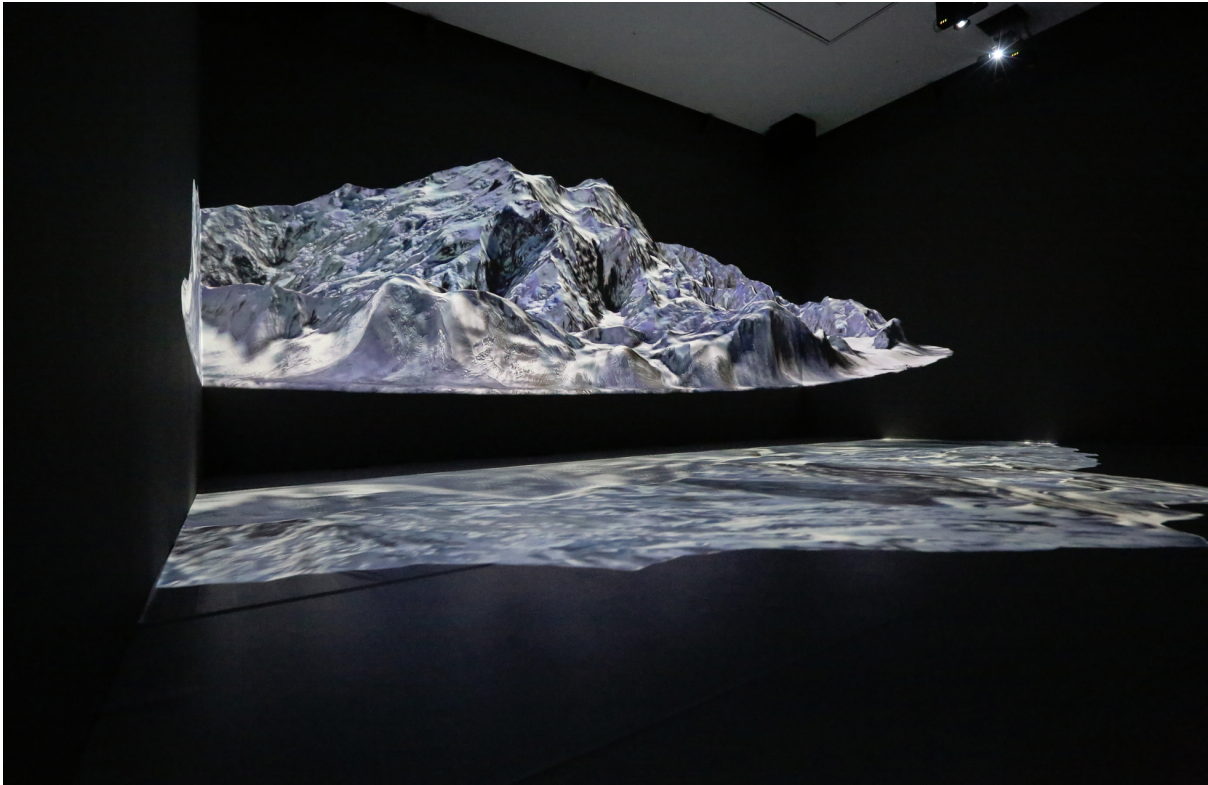
The exhibition is part of the long-term research project by Art Center Nabi 'East meets East', together with a large conference 'East meets East: Han Ma Eum' which will take place at the KCCUK on Friday 9 September. [see doc in media pack titled 'conference' for more info]

For the **exhibition**, The KCCUK and Art Center Nabi have invited three artists working with new media and installation based performances to exhibit works drawing on human-nonhuman ecologies in the virtual realm. 'Our Friendly Neighbours' focuses on the connection between art, technology, and the environment in a post-pandemic world. During the enforced isolations of the Covid-19 era, the understanding of the neighbourhood has increasingly expanded beyond immediate

borders to encompass the global and non-human. Reflecting on global human expansion, the cause of the continuing climate crisis and the unequal pandemic response, the exhibition hones in on the virtual ecologies made and the artificial perceptions of space and time as communities collectively experience the destruction of the planet. Exploring the themes of commonality, harmony, and empathy, the exhibition asks us to consider both the extended definition of neighbourhood and how we can form shared value systems in today's secular, ever increasingly individualist society.

The artists' responses are site-specific and immersive installations, new works employing large video projections, multi-channel video and sound installation with 3D animation, drawings, paintings, free verses overlaid on the window, and data visualisation using AI and game engines on real-time photorealistic image data. Experimenting with technology and large-scale media, the artists intend to transport visitors across concepts of borders and reflect on the planetary crisis we all face.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 8 September - 5 November and will be free of charge.

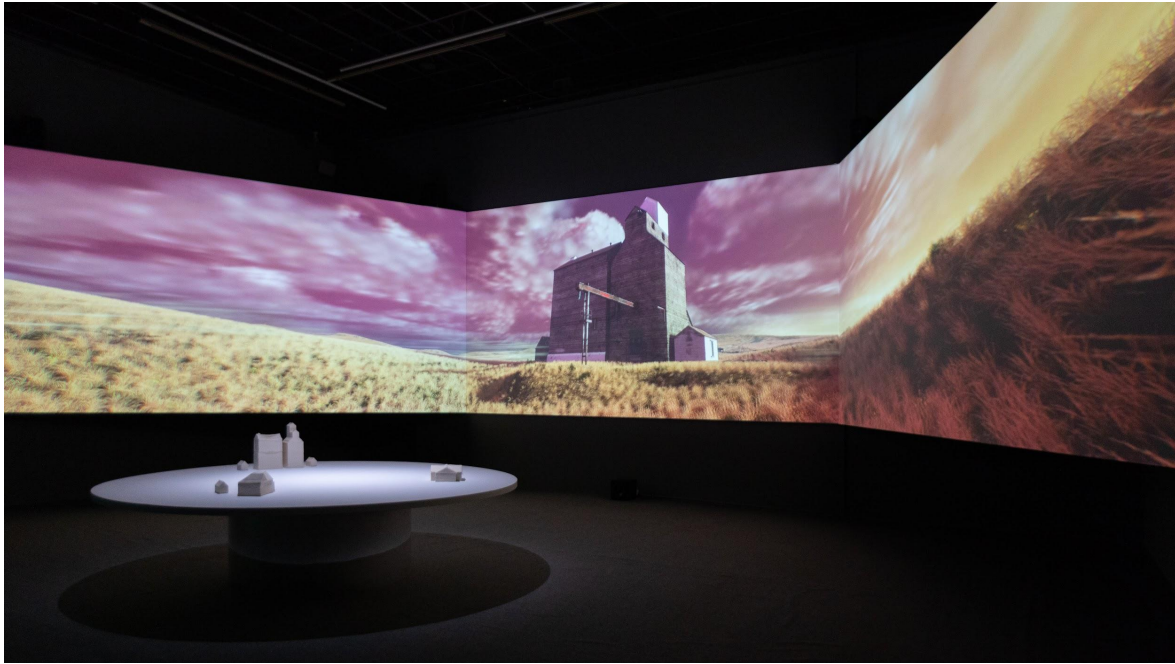


Above: Installation view of *FINITE*, 2021. Composed of 5 projections and 12 channel spatialised audio system. Courtesy of the artist.

Yiyun Kang's immersive audio-visual installation *Finite 2.0* is inspired by the overlapping fluidity of ideas in ancient Eastern and Western cultures, which understood the perfect nature as simultaneously infinite and finite, unbound and undetermined.

As introduced by the artist, *Finite 2.0* "allows us to confront the uncomfortable fact that humanity's perpetual desire is to exploit limited natural resources." An immersive experience of digitally rendered imagescapes and soundscapes narrates new ways of thinking about nature beyond the dualistic models of nature-culture, wilderness-civilisation, through which history has justified the widespread destruction and exploitation of mankind in nature.

Built with a combination of screens and translucent fabrics, the installation is designed to transmit and form the image at the same time, expanding the image beyond the screen and inviting the audience to freely navigate the space through this membrane.



Above: Installation view of Bang & Lee's *The Place That Has No Name*, 2021. Multi-channel video and sound, wall text, drawing, painting, 3D animation, 3D printed ceramic sculpture, and round table. Dimensions variable. On view of the 8th Asian Art Biennial - Phantasmapolis, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, 2021-22. Courtesy of the Artist. Image Courtesy of National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts.

Bang & Lee's artwork *The place that has no name* is a continuing series of dystopian landscapes. Reflecting on how to transform the creative process during the pandemic, the artists continue their exploration of the subject of 'terra incognita' (Latin, unknown land), a place "recalling a remote wilderness, which explores a route across the prairie like in a game world waiting for the first level to load." The imagery in the installation expresses interwoven memories and experiences, visualising desolate lands and collapsed architectures to form "a kind of Sisyphean journey of endlessly repeated activity; driving a rental car on a desert road without end."

For this exhibition, the artwork will be configured as part of the facade of the KCCUK building facing out into the Strand. The 3D animation is pieces across 3 screens, with free verses overlaid on the window. Five pieces, two black-and-white drawings and three oil pastel paintings of the main scenes of the work matching the keyframes of the 3D animation, will also be shown as part of the artwork. The animation sequence illustrates a desolate land through the eyes of the artists, whose circumstances appear to be in jeopardy in a limitless world.



Above: Still images of Jinjoon Lee's *Wandering Sun*, 2022. Courtesy of the artist.

Finally, **Jinjoon Lee**'s series *Wandering Sun* continues the artist's exploration of liminal spaces and further questions the relationship between natural and artificial through AI-generated sceneries. For Lee, the piece expresses the need to reconnect with time and space in an increasingly virtual world;

“As the concept of ‘lived time’ has disappeared from our age of instant information, we have become virtually unable to feel space through our senses. If we hope to not lose that in-between space, where, ever shrinking, it sits between start and finish, we will have to pay closer attention.”

Wandering Sun is a data visualisation project employing AI and game engines on real-time photorealistic image data. The installation draws from the iconography of the Irworobongdo, the majestic decorated folding screen behind the royal throne during the Joseon Dynasty depicting the Sun and the Moon in a mountain landscape. Lee's *Wandering Sun* is a visualisation of NASA's data related to the climate crisis, imported into the world originally depicted in the Irworobongdo, rendered as a photorealistic ‘natural’ scenery of the sun in its celestial navigation on the immense scale of a 3 x 5 metre LED screen. Audiences are invited to witness the *Wandering Sun* over time to challenge our conception of what it means to be ‘natural’ or ‘artificial’, in a space –as Lee says– “which exists somewhere but isn't anywhere, a ‘nowhere in somewhere.’”

[ENDS]

For press information and images, please contact:
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For hi-res images: [Our Friendly Neighbours media pack](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS

KOREAN CULTURAL CENTRE (KCCUK)

Since being opened by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in January 2008, the KCCUK has presented year-round exhibition programmes, film festivals as well as traditional and contemporary musical performances. From the KCCUK's central London location (just off Trafalgar Square), the institution's dedicated cultural team work to further develop established cultural projects, introduce new opportunities to expand Korean programmes in the UK and to encourage ongoing cultural exchange.

Art Center Nabi

Art Center Nabi is a media art center at the forefront of exploring and experimenting with the newly expanded horizons of art, science and technologies. Since 1999, Art Center Nabi has been actively discovering, supporting and facilitating the media art scene through running media art exhibitions, hackathons, productions, residencies, educational programs, and academic events. With a long history of collaborating with institutions such as Rhizome, V2, Kronos Art Center, ISEA International, ELEKTRA Media Arts Festival, and SIGGRAPH Asia, Art Center Nabi hopes to be a space, where artistic sensibilities combined with technological and scientific possibilities bring out the power of positive change in humanity as well as in society.

ARTISTS

Yiyun Kang FRSA is an artist who cultivates immersive environments with audio-visual installation works. She presents synesthetic narratives that challenge dichotomous ontology through spatial moving image installations. Her works have been presented at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Seoul Museum of Art, Venice Architecture Biennale, Shenzhen Biennale UABB and Taipei MOCA amongst others. In 2020, she participated as the sole Korean artist in the transcontinental contemporary art project CONNECT BTS.

<https://www.yiyunkang.com/>

Jinjoon Lee FRSA is a new media artist and creative director exploring the liminoid experience of utopian space ideologies utilising new technologies. He acquired a Doctor of Philosophy specialising in Liminoid experience and was selected as Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2021, an award for prospective leading young UK artists for the future of contemporary art.

<https://leejinjoon.com/>

Bang & Lee are an artist duo who have pursued a wide range of projects including new media installation-based performances, kinetic art, optical fibre projection, lighting installations, stage design, and 3D animation. Their works have been presented internationally, including Watershed (UK), MAXXI (Italy), MoCA Shanghai (China), NTMoFA (Taiwan), Nafasi Art Space (Tanzania) and Art Center Nabi (Korea).

<https://linktr.ee/bangandlee>

RELATED EVENTS

- **Opening Reception**

Date: 8th September, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Location: Korean Cultural Centre UK, Grand Buildings, 1-3 Strand London WC2N 5BW

RSVP on the KCCUK website

[Our Friendly Neighbours | KCCUK](#)

- **East Meets East: Han Ma Eum Conference**

East meets East: Han Ma Eum is a media art conference presenting the planetary mind at the centre of ecological philosophies through a series of talks, roundtables and performances, in pursuit of a new collective existence between the human, non-human, technology, and the Earth.

Date: 9th September 2022, 15:00-19:30

Location: Korean Cultural Centre UK, Grand Buildings, 1-3 Strand London WC2N 5BW

Open to the public, free admission

RSVP on [Eventbrite](#)

VISITOR INFORMATION

Opening times:

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 5:30pm

Free entry

Korean Cultural Centre UK,

Grand Buildings, 1 Strand

London WC2N 5BW

Main Entrance on Northumberland Avenue

Nearest London Underground Station: Charing Cross, Embankment

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