



**National Museum of
Modern and Contemporary Art
Korea**

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Korea Artist Prize 2017 Winner Selected and Sponsored artists selected for 2018

MMCA

The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (MMCA) has selected Song Sanghee (b. 1970) as the winner of Korea Artist Prize 2017, an exhibition co-organized with the SBS Culture Foundation.

Co-organized by MMCA and the SBS Culture Foundation, the Korea Artist Prize was planned as an effort to support and foster artists presenting possibilities and visions for contemporary Korean art along with new alternatives. Marking its sixth edition this year since its 2012 launch, the Korea Artist Prize is establishing itself as a fully-fledged artistic award system representing South Korea, which seeks to advance Korean art and culture by encouraging new trends and discourses in contemporary Korean art.

The winner of Korea Artist Prize 2017, Song Sanghee is presenting two new works for this exhibition. *Come Back Alive Baby* uses the tragic heroic folk tale of the “baby commander” to address themes of ending and rescue, apocalyptic circumstances, and the energy of new beginnings. Using video, drawings, and text, she transforms the “resurrections” that emerge even amid the most dramatic circumstances of despair and annihilation, including the sacrifices of individuals for the security of states and groups, major famines and local government bankruptcies, and historically catastrophic nuclear power plant disasters. Placed opposite this work is *This is the way the world ends not with a bang but a whimper*, produced by gathering numerous images of explosions. The effect is one of juxtaposition with the “hollow man,” who is accustomed to living amid the ongoing reality of disaster and threat of human annihilation.

Born in 1970, Song Sanghee began her artistic career with a requiem for the “soundless deaths of those without a share.” Through her work, she uses music, video, drawings, text, and performance to summon those “excluded by explosions to symbolic systems,” the “nameless ones” ever present in different forces through past and present, and bring them into a complex space-time of past and present within a more robust narrative context. During the 2000s, her work has adopted the perspective of a woman who has experienced modernity as it depicts tragic scenes and images of structuralized mythology, constantly posing questions about the place of women in society. Since 2010, she has used historical

materials collected and researched in a meticulous, multilayered way to focus on forgotten details from history, engaging and establishing new relationships with the brilliant things lingering within those moments.

In assessing Song's work, the panel of judges for the Korea Artist Prize 2017 exhibition said the artist has "therapeutically reconstructed dark and sorrowful moments from modern society through the introduction of historical allusions and mythology, using video, photography, and drawing as part of a meticulous reading, based on multilayered research and interviews, into the victims who have been unable to rise to the surface of history."

The SBS Culture Foundation plans to air a contemporary art documentary on the artistic visions of sponsored artists and the final awardees on the SBS network on 4 February 2018.

■ Sponsored artists selected for 2018

In September 2017, four artists and artist teams were selected for sponsorship as part of the Korea Artist Prize 2018 project by a five-person jury consisting of MMCA director Bartomeu Mari, Curatorial Division of the Asia Culture Institute director Kim Sungwon, 2018 Shanghai Biennale artistic director Cuauhtémoc Medina, Mudam Luxembourg director Suzanne Cotter, and China Central Academy of Fine Arts Art Museum deputy director Wang Chunchen.

The candidates for the Korea Artist Prize 2018 are **Gu Minja**, who adopts a philosophical perspective in addressing time, labor, and other ordinary parts of daily life; **Okin Collective**, a group that uses radio broadcasting and performances to address issues related to modern urban development in South Korea; **Siren Eun Young Jung**, who uses video, performance, and other forms of art to explore gender issues through the performances and expressive styles of *yeoseong gukgeuk* (all-female traditional musical theater) artists; and **Jung Jaeho**, whose paintings show landscapes of modernization where development logic is paramount. New works by the four sponsored artists and artist groups are to be unveiled at MMCA's by the four sponsored artists

For more details, please visit the MMCA website (<http://www.mmca.go.kr/>) and the official Korea Artist Prize website (<http://koreaartistprize.org>).

□ General Inquiries: 82-2-3701-9500 (MMCA)

※ For more detailed questions about the exhibition, please contact the first exhibition department at MMCA's Gwacheon(81-2-2188-6244).

Korea Artist Prize Sponsored Artists and Winners

- 1st: 2012—**Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho** (winners), Yee Sookyung, Lim Minouk, Gim Hong-sok
- 2nd: 2013—**Kong Sung-Hun** (winner), Shin Meekyoung, Jo Haejun, Ham Yang Ah
- 3rd: 2014—**Noh Suntag** (winner), Koo Donghee, Kim Shinil, Chang Jia
- 4th: 2015—**Oh Inhwan** (winner), Kira Kim, Na Hyun, Ha Tae Bum
- 5th: 2016—**Mixrice** (winner), Kim Eull, Back Seungwoo, Ham Kyungah

- 6th: 2017—**Song Sanghee** (winner), Kelvin Kyungkun Park , Sunny Kim, Bek Hyunjin

* **Korea Artist Prize Official Homepage:** <http://koreaartistprize.org>

※ Please check the link below for images and further information:

<http://webhard.mmca.go.kr> id : mmcapr1 / pw : 0987 (guest > 2018 > MMCA 2018)

Song Sanghee

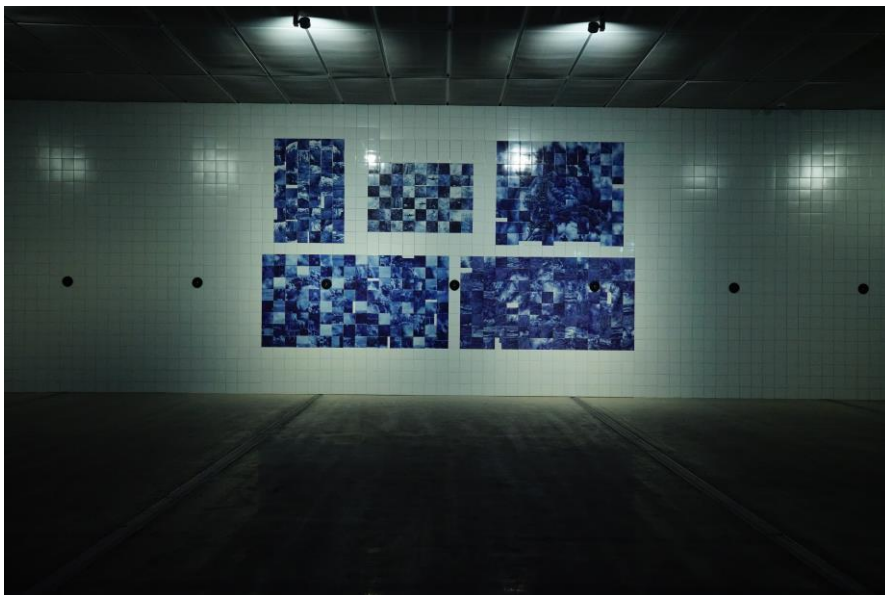


The works of Song Sanghee (b. 1970) start by assuaging the soundless death of those who have absolutely nothing in this world. Through her works, the artist captures those who have been shunned and excluded by the symbolic violence as well as the nameless beings that have constantly existed in different appearances over the years. She calls them to the complex time and space of the past and present through a narrative context that has been solidified through music, video, drawing, text and performance. The series, which was produced in the 2000s, has reenacted structuralized myths and tragic events from the perspective of a modern woman and continually questioned the position of women in society. Since 2010, Song has collected and studied historical records in more delicate, multilayered ways. Based on this, she continues to form relationships by initiating conversations about what has been forgotten in historical scenes and the splendid things remaining in these moments.

Song's new work *Come Back Alive Baby* deals with the end of the world, salvation, apocalyptic condition and the energy of new formation based on the folk tale of "a baby commander", a tragic hero story. Through video, drawing, and text, she presents variations of "a new life force" rising even from the extreme situations of despair and extinction such as one in which individuals are sacrificed for the stability of a country or a group; a great famine and the bankruptcy of a local government; ruins due to the worst nuclear power plant accident in history. On the opposite side is *This is the way the world ends not with a bang but a whimper*, created with a collection of countless explosion images. In this way, the artist juxtaposes the "The Hollow Men" who are accustomed to living in the face of the ongoing reality of catastrophe and the crisis of humankind's co-destruction.



Song Sanghee, *Come Back Alive Baby*, 2017, 3 Channel video installation, 16'(installation view)



Song Sanghee, *This is the way the world ends not with a bang but a whimper*, 2017, Tile-wall installation 8 in-wall speakers, Dimension variable

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<Selected Solo Exhibitions>

- 2015 The story of Byeongangsoe 2015, Art Space Pool, Seoul, Korea
- 2015 'O' VZL Contemporary Art, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2014 Peace to all people in the world, Chongching artcenter, Chongching, China
- 2004 Blue hope, Insa art center, Seoul, Korea
- 2003 mangbusuk 望夫石, Freespace PRAHA, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan
- 2001 Machines, alternative space pool, Seoul, Korea

<Selected Group Exhibitions>

- 2017 Korea Artist Prize 2017, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea
- 2016 Aichi triennale, Nagoya City art Museum, Nagoya, Japan
- 2014 The 4th Anyang Public Art Project, Anyang Pavilion, Kim Chung Up Museum, Anyang, Korea
- 2014 Good Morning, Mr. Orwell 2014, Nam June Paik Art center, Yongin, Korea
- 2013 De presentaties van de genomineerden Workspace Filmhuis, Filmhuis Den Haag, Den Haag, The Netherlands
- 2013 Tireless Refrain, Nam June Paik Art Center, Yongin, Korea
- 2012 The mechanical cocoon, Arti et amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2011 City Net Asia, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
- 2010 Women Make Waves Film Festival, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2010 The 12th International Films Festival in Seoul, Seoul, Korea
- 2009 Finding Korea, Sinn Leffers, Hannover, Germany
- 2008 El Punto del Compás, Sala de Arte publico Siqueires, Mexico city, Mexico
- 2008 BIENNALE CUVÉE & FESTIVAL, OK Center, Linz, Austria
- 2007 TransPOP: Korea Vietnam Remix, ARKO Art Center, Seoul, Korea /Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, USA
- 2007 Global Feminisms, Brooklyn Museum, New York, U.S.A.
- 2006 The 27th Bienal de São Paulo, How to live together, Porão das Artes Pavilhão da Bienal, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2006 The 6th Gwangju Biennale, Biennale Hall, Jungoei Park, Gwangju, Korea
- 2006 ArtSpectrum 2006, Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
- 2005 The Battle of Visions-Critical Art in Korea, Kunsthalle Darmstadt, Darmstadt, Germany
- 2004 Busan Biennale, Busan Metropolitan Art Museum, Busan, Korea
- 2004 Stepping Across Borders, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan

<Collection>

Wumin Art Center, Korea

Art Council Korea, Korea

National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea

Seoul Museum of Art, Korea

<Awards>

2008 Hermès Foundation Missulsang, Korea

<Residency>

2015 Okinawa Creator Village, Okinawa-si, Japan

2012 Warm Heart Art Tanzania, Arusha, Tanzania


2010 Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori, Japan

2006-2007 Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2005 The 7th Ssamzie Artist Residency Program, Seoul, Korea

2003 Sapporo Artist in Residence, Sapporo, Japan

Members of the Judge Committee for <Korea Artist Prize 2017>

	<p>Present Director of National Museum of Contemporary and Modern Art, Korea</p>
<p>Bartomeu Mari</p>	<p>[Major career] 2008~2015 Director of Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona; MACBA) 2004~2008 Chief curator of Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona; MACBA) 2005 Curator of Spain Pavilion at Venice Biennale 2002 Curator of Taipei Biennale 1996~2001 Director of Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art (Rotterdam) 1993~1995 Curator of IVAM-Julio Gonzalez Centre in Valencia</p>
	<p>Present Director of Dia Art Foundation</p>
<p>Jessica Morgan</p>	<p>[Major career] 2010-2016 The Daskolopoulos Curator of International Art at Tate Modern 2014 Artistic Director of Gwangju Biennale 2002-2010 Curator of Contemporary Art at Tate Modern 1999-2002 Chief Curator of the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston</p>
	<p>Present - Rektor of Art History and Cultural Education at the Frankfurt's Städelschule art school - Director of the Portikus Gallery</p>
<p>Philippe Pirottee</p>	<p>[Major career] 2016 Curator of La Biennale de Montréal 2012 Adjunct Senior Curator at the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive 2005-2011 Director of Kunsthalle Bern</p>
	<p>[Major career] 2012-2016 Director of Seoul Museum of Art 2007-2010 Director of Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art 2005- 2006 Director of Gwangju Biennale 2003 Commissioner of Korean Pavilion of Venice Biennale 2001 International Committee of Yokohama Triennale 2000 Commissioner for main show at Gwangju Biennale 1999-2000 Commissioner for Australian Pavilion of Gwangju Biennale 1998-2008 Director of Ssamzie Space 1995 Curator of 1st of "InfoART" the exhibition at Gwangju Biennale</p>
<p>Kim Honghee</p>	

■ Sponsored artists selected for 2018

	<p>[Education] 2007 Korean National University of Arts. M.F.A. Seoul, Korea 2002 Yonsei University, Philosophy. B.A, Seoul, Korea 2000 Hongik University. Fine Art, B.F.A., Seoul, Korea</p> <p>[Selected Solo Exhibitions] 2018 Inside the Belly of Monstro - Citadellaan 7, Gent, Belgium 2015-16 Leaking Pipe - Roundabout, Seoul, Korea 2013 Personal Reconstruction & Self Expression, Guminja Art Fair - KimKim Gallery at Takeout Drawing, Seoul, Korea</p> <p>[Selected Group Exhibitions] 2017 The Great Machine IV - J. Trepas Museum, Tarrega, Spain 2014 The Part In The Story – Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands 2012 Trading Futures – Taipei Contemporary Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan</p>
<p>Minja Gu</p>	<p>[Selected Exhibitions] 2010 <i>Concrete Island</i>, Take Out Drawing, Seoul, Korea 2010 <i>Okin Open Site</i>, Okin Apartment, Seoul, Korea</p> <p>[Selected Group Exhibitions] 2017 <i>Reenacting History</i>, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea(Gwacheon), Korea 2017 <i>Urban Ritornello</i>, Ilmin Museum of Art, Korea 2017 <i>Dancers</i>, Art Space Pool, Seoul & Gyeongnam Art Museum, Changwon, Korea 2017 <i>do it 2017</i>, Seoul, Ilmin Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea</p>
<p>Okin Collective(2009 ~)</p>	<p>[Education] 2017 Ewha Women's University (Ph.D) 2004 Leeds University(MFA) 2000 Ewha Women's University</p> <p>[Selected Solo Exhibitions] 2017 <i>WrongIndexing: YeoseongGukgeukArchive</i>, NTUCCA, Singapore Gallery 2016 <i>Anomalous Fantasy(Staging)</i>, Season Program, Namsan Art Centre, Seoul 2016 <i>Wrong Indexing</i>, Sindoh Art Gallery, Seoul 2015 <i>Trans-Theatre</i>, Art Space Pool, Seoul</p> <p>[Selected Group Exhibitions] 2018 <i>Performing Art Meeting in Yokohama 2018</i>, KAAAT, Yokohama, Japan 2017 <i>Urban-Ritornello</i>, Ilmin Museum of Art, Seoul 2017 <i>Asian Diva: The Muse and The Monster</i>, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul</p>
	<p>[Education] 2001 Seoul National University(Oriental Painting/MFA) 1997 Seoul National University(Oriental Painting/BFA)</p> <p>[Selected Solo Exhibitions] 2017 Heat Island, INDIPRESS, Seoul 2014 Days of Dust, Gallery HYUNDAI, Seoul 2011 Planet, Gallery SOSO, Paju 2010 Gallery HYUNDAI, Window Gallery, Seoul</p> <p>[Selected Group Exhibitions] Group Exhibitions</p>
<p>Jaeho Jung</p>	<p>2017 The red brick house, OCI Museum, Seoul Accidentally, the night again, WUMIN Art Center, Cheongju 2016 Realism, Maison d Ungno Lee, Hong Seoung</p>