



National Museum of
Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea



Choi Chan Sook, the Winner of the Korea Artist Prize 2021

The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (MMCA, Director Youn Bummo) announces **Choi Chan Sook** as the final winner of ***Korea Artist Prize 2021***, co-organized with SBS Foundation.

Korea Artist Prize, which first began in 2012, is a representative art award program in Korea co-organized by the MMCA and SBS Foundation. Four visual artists/teams who are capable of using innovative aesthetics to address the most compelling social issues of our time are selected, to whom funding is provided for their artistic productions that are then exhibited, and a final winner is announced.

The winner of *Korea Artist Prize 2021*, Choi Chan Sook, has presented ***qbit to adam***, which focuses on land and body that constitute one's memory and history, entailing the stories of migration, immigration, and communities. The members of the judging committee noted that Choi has dealt with a permeating issue for the contemporary society with such a spectacular installation as the reason why she has been selected as the final winner.

Director Eugene Tan of Singapore Art Museum, a member of the judging committee described Choi's work as one "that has elegantly expressed a timely issue of land ownership that is of global interest not only in Asia." Defne Ayas and Natasha Ginwala, Artistic Directors of the 2021 Biennale described Choi as "an outstanding artist that deserves global recognition." Director Choi Eun-ju of Daegu Art Museum said she was "impressed by how the visitors were immersed into the artwork, a scene she witnessed during her multiple visits to the MMCA." Professor Park So-hyun of Seoul National University of Science and Technology spoke highly of Choi's work which she explained has enabled her to "experience an unequalled level of contemporary art that encompasses the exhibition space and installation design, going beyond the framework of video work."

Director Youn Bummo of MMCA said "From the world's largest copper mine in Chile to crypto mining, Choi Chan Sook has beautifully and implicatively presented an extensive story that pertains to our times," and expressed gratitude to "all of the four finalists for showcasing such meaningful artworks through the exhibition."

Considering the COVID-19 situation which restricted the juries from visiting Korea in-person, the final screening for the winner of **Korea Artist Prize 2021** was carried on-line for 2 hours from 5PM on March 11. The exhibition runs through March 20 (Sun) at MMCA Seoul.

Judging Committee of Korea Artist Prize 2021

In order to reflect the diverse perspectives amid the changing art environment and to encourage continued global interest for Korean art, the members of the recommendation committee and judging committee are newly selected each year, which also includes international art professionals. There are a total of five members on the judging committee for *Korea Artist Prize 2021* Park So-hyun (professor at Seoul National University of Science and Technology), Choi Eun-ju (director of Daegu Art Museum), Eugene Tan (director of National Art Gallery, Singapore), Defne Ayas and Natasha Ginwala (artistic directors of Gwangju Biennale 2021), Youn Bummo (director of MMCA, ex officio).

KOREA ARTIST PRIZE – Sponsored and Awarded Artists

Year	Sponsored and Awarded Artists
Korea Artist Prize 2012	Moon Kyungwon, Jeon Joonho (2012 Artists of the Year), Gim Hong-sok, Yee Sookyung, and Lim Minouk
Korea Artist Prize 2013	Kong Sung-Hun (2013 Artist of the Year), Shin Meekyoung, Jo Haejun, and Ham Yang Ah
Korea Artist Prize 2014	Noh Suntag (2014 Artist of the Year), Koo Donghee, Kim Shinil, and Chang Jia
Korea Artist Prize 2015	Inhwan Oh (2015 Artist of the Year), Kira Kim, Na Hyun, and Tae Bum Ha
Korea Artist Prize 2016	Mixrice (2016 Artists of the Year), Kim Eull, Back Seung Woo, and Ham Kyungah
Korea Artist Prize 2017	Song Sanghee (2017 Artist of the Year), Sunny Kim, Baek Hyunjin, and Kelvin Kyungkun Park
Korea Artist Prize 2018	siren eun young jung (2018 Artist of the Year), Minja Gu, Jae Ho Jung, and Okin Collective
Korea Artist Prize 2019	Rhii Jewyo (2019 Artist of the Year), Kim Ayoung, Park Hyesoo, and Hong Young In
Korea Artist Prize 2020	Lee Seulgi (2020 Artist of the Year), Kim Minae, Jung Yoonsuk, and Chung Heeseung
Korea Artist Prize 2021	Choi Chan Sook (2021 Artist of the Year), Kim Sangjin, Bang Jeong-A, and Oh Min

Notes to editors

For high-resolution images of the museum, please follow the link: [here](#)

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Choi Chan Sook — the Winner of the *Korea Artist Prize 2021*



Choi Chan Sook. Image provided by MMCA.

Education

2009 Meisterschüler bei Prof. Maria Vedder, Universität der Künste Berlin, DE

Selected Exhibitions

2021 *qbit to adam I, adam*, Kang Contemporary, Berlin, Germany

2021 *all about Women festival*, Sydney Opera House

2020 *SUPERPOSITION—qbit to adam*, Digital Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan

2020 *Sirene-Goldrausch 2020*, Kunstraum Koreaeuzberg Bethanien, Berlin

2019 *The Square, Art and Society in Korea*, MMCA, Geachon, Korea

2019 *DMZ*, Culture Station Seoul 284, Seoul, Korea

2017 *Art Sonje Project #5: Chan Sook Choi – Re – move*, Art Sonje Center Project Space, Seoul, Korea

Choi Chan Sook has been building up a visual vocabulary revolving around the themes of movement, migration, and community. She presents in various formats diverse perspectives and narratives pertaining to her position in life and existence. Through a long personal history of emigration, she expresses interest in migration experiences at both physical and emotional levels, particularly issues surrounding land as a place for living and as property. *60 Ho* (2020) features stories about women living in Yangji-ri, a village near the Demilitarized Zone formed for propagandistic purposes. Through their stories, Choi brings to spotlight the power dynamics surrounding ownership of land. *qbit to adam* (2021) embodies the artist's longtime study of land pertaining to our physical bodies that walk on it and our relationship to it as a possession.

In this exhibition, Choi takes her long-standing focus on marginalized people and neglected stories one step further by addressing the land and body through the lens of personal history and memories. From mining coals to mining cryptocurrency, the different stories told through video and sound in *qbit to adam* unearth the irony-laden human history of labor and material possession. The different narratives in the 4-channel video installation unite and separate within the same space, reestablishing the interrelationships within. At the same time, these images are projected onto the copper-hued floor of Gallery 2, encouraging another opportunity for reflection. Choi probes into how the virtual spaces and systems in our midst come together with existing narratives to create visceral sensations, and she challenges us to question the true nature of these newly experienced sensations derived from those places.

Choi Chan Sook, *qbit to adam*, 2021

video installation, four-channel video, 16k, colour, sound, 33 min., loop.

Installation view of Korea Artist Prize 2021 at MMCA Seoul. Photo: Hong Cheolki. Image provided by MMCA.



