



art in ASIA

12 ASIAN BIENNALES UNVEILED IN 2014

Artist/
Young Churl Shim
Special Feature/
Gwangju Biennale 20 Years
Review/
Chong Gon Byun, Seok Chul-joo
The East Bridge
Essay/
Biennial Logic

8th SeMA Biennale Mediacity Seoul

① 2nd to 23rd Sept. ② Seoul Museum of Art(SeMA), Korean Film Archive(KOFA)
③ Park Chan-kyong ④ Ghosts, Spies, and Grandmothers ⑤ www.mediacityseoul.kr



Mediacity Seoul is an international biennale of media art and contemporary art hosted by Seoul Museum of Art(SeMA).

Initiated in 2000 under the title "Media_CitySeoul," the biennale reflects the media-frenzy characteristics of Seoul and confers the identity of Seoul Museum of Art. In 2013, the Museum established a structure to organize the Biennale directly. Celebrating its 8th rendition this year, Mediacity Seoul is the making of 14 years of its history, while more than 452 teams of artists from 51 countries have participated in total in the past exhibitions.

This year's artistic director is artist/film director Park Chan-kyong, who conceived the exhibition's theme as "Asia" with the title "Ghosts, Spies, and Grandmothers." This year, 42 international artists(teams included) from 17 countries are presenting their works. The participants Bae Young-whan, Eric Baudelaire, CHE Onejoon, Choi Sunghun + Park Sunmin, Nina Fischer & Maroan el Sani, Ho Sin Tung, Joo Jae-hwan, siren eun young jung, Dinh Q. Lê, Joanna Lombard, Basim Magdy, Min Joung-Ki, The Propeller Group, Rho Jae Oon, Lina Selander, Tamura Yuichiro, Truong Cong Tung, Otty Widasari, Haegue Yang, YAO Jui-chung, Yoneda Tomoko, Mahardika Yudha, Zero Dimension/Kato Yoshihiro and many others.

Park says "The continent of Asia

has shared experiences of intense colonialization and the Cold War, rapid economic growth and social change in such a short period, but rarely have there been any exhibitions with such a theme as the main subject. Hence, through the keywords of "Ghosts, Spies, and Grandmothers," this exhibition will retrospect on contemporary Asia. Ghosts stand for the forgotten history and tradition of Asia, Spies symbolize the memories of the Cold War, and the Grandmothers are metaphors of "women and time." The exhibited works, however, could transcend such themes or make a detour around them to present themselves in the state of ample possibility vis-à-vis the viewers."

Mikhail Kariki's *SeaWomen* focuses on the work and unique sonic sub-culture of a community of elderly female sea laborers called haenyeo who live on the isle of Jeju. Jakrawal Nilthamrong's *INTRANSIT* pays homage to sci-fi film techniques in the 60s and 70s when filmmakers experimented with "Organic Effects" to depict life in space, as well as American experimental filmmakers who explored film media as a conceptual art form. Truong Cong Tung has carried out field trips and research in his work *Magic Garden* in Long An Province, where he looked into people's spiritual beliefs and rituals, practices yet to be verified by science as a cure. At Korean Film Archive, 42 films will be shown from 2th September to 23th November.

For the ritual of the opening performance, Seoul Sae-nam Gut(Shamanistic ritual of Seoul,



Important Intangible Cultural Property No.104, designated in 1996) was shown at 1st Sept. at Seoul Museum of Art. This is the major shamanistic ritual for the dead, the largest of its kind in Seoul based on the tradition of Jin-o-gi Gut(form of ritual to guide the dead to the ways of Heaven). It celebrated the commencement of the exhibition and consoled the poor souls who have lost their lives due to recent tragic accidents in Korea.