



Justin Jinsoo Kim

- **Guidance by Dokkaebi Fire and Other Works**

Film/Video

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8 PM

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ABOUT THE WORK

A series of five short films by emerging filmmaker Justin Jinsoo Kim employing experimental animation to collide memories, mediums, and myths. His recent film *Guidance by Dokkaebi Fire / 귀화전도* engages the varied resonances of the Japanese occupation era of Korea with archival photos of scientific studies of Koreans and their physical attributes, severed Buddha statues, and ancient mythical references. *The Far and Near / 멀고 가까운 곳* interlaces two historical anecdotes: the 1995 astronomical project of the Hubble Telescope and the 1447 painting by Ahn Gyeon that captured the mystical dream of Prince Anpyeong from the Chosun Dynasty. Kim examines the “the far and near” images through printing, transforming, and distorting the photos from the NASA Image and Video Library. *The Exhausted / 소진된 인간* explores the concept of “exhausting the possible” within the time and space in stop-motion animation

form. *Personality Test / 심리테스트* departs from a standard personality test found on the internet and private memories, reconstructed through photographs and sound manipulation.

Presented in Korean with English subtitles.

The program includes a post-screening conversation with Justin Jinsoo Kim and Hyesung ii, Film Programs team, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.

This program is co-presented with GYOPO, a volunteer-led arts non-profit organization that works with cultural producers of the Korean Diaspora to organize free, year-round programs which address pressing issues of our time.

The Jack H. Skirball Series is organized by Jheanelle Brown.

Special thanks to Yoon Ju Ellie Lee and GYOPO.

The Exhausted (2021), 7 min.

Soldier puppets walk repeatedly in a movement inspired by Samuel Beckett's *Quad* (1981). By visually adapting Deleuze's ideas on *Quad* (*The Exhausted*, 1995), the film explores „exhausting the possible” within time and space in stop-motion animation. The puppets—and the printed images of them—slowly disintegrate and the residue becomes new possibilities.

The Far and Near (2023), 10 min.

In 1995, an astronomer proposed an unusual project. The idea was to use the Hubble telescope to capture a small part of the universe that was believed to be empty. In the year of Jungmyo (1447), prince Anpyeong had a dream of walking through a peach blossom forest shrouded in clouds and mist, and he asked painter Ahn Gyeon to capture it in a painting. Based on these two stories, this movie explores the process of printing, transforming, and distorting images from the NASA image library to create an image of 'The Far and Near'.

***Personality Test* (2021), 8 min.**

A private memory is examined and explored through a simple personality test found on the internet. The photographs and sounds, recorded by the interviewee at the forest and other places, become distorted and transformed by the artist or the audience. In the reconstructed forest, the questioner, the interviewee, and the audience start to picture images of an animal, a house, a sound of water, and beyond.

***Jumping Moments* (2020), 2 min.**

Starting from the inquiry of what animation is, the artist finds himself located in between different sequences of time. A physical space in a film is always frozen within a small fragment of time—a frame. The artist dynamically explores each space as the frames become combined, transformed, rearranged, and repeated.

Guidance by Dokkaebi Fire (2024), 18 min.

For the purpose of collection, preservation, and recording, numerous faces that existed in different times and places densely gather in a single space. Among them are photos of Koreans taken during the Japanese occupation era for physical measurements, and Buddha statues with severed heads for reasons unknown. The only remaining ancient Korean painting that captures the appearance of Dokkaebi, the Korean mythical goblin, is *Gwi Hwa Jeon Do* (1869) by Heo Ryeon. The Dokkaebi fire in the painting guides the path for the wandering lost faces.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Justin Jinsoo Kim (김진수) is an experimental filmmaker from South Korea exploring animation technique and form to examine personal and collective memories, cultural myths, superstitions, and repetitions. He received an MFA in Experimental Animation at California Institute of

the Arts. Kim's work has been selected in various festivals, including New York Film Festival Currents, EXiS (Experimental Film & Video Festival in Seoul), Annecy International Animation Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, and Jeonju International Film Festival.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR

Hyesung ii is a Los Angeles-based film programmer from Seoul, South Korea. Her exploration in creativity is heavily impacted by practical manifestation of accessibility and inclusivity in art and film presentation, hoping to create and/or employ language that is open and inviting. She is currently part of the Film Programs team at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and holds an MFA in Film/Video from CalArts.



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