

Contemporary Korean Art

A Lecture by Jongmin Paek



Namjun Paik

Tuesday, October 23, 2018
10:00-11:30am

Portland State University
School of Art + Design
Art Building Room 200
2000 SW 5th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201

Free and open to the public

Throughout modern history, Korean artists have been negotiating westernization while attempting to come to terms with national identity. Artists tried balancing between tradition and modernity, first under colonial suppression, then conditioned by the limitations enforced by a geographically and politically divided nation. Their art oscillated between the demands of and the reaction against dictatorship, student uprisings and citizen protests. How could Korean art become successful under these conditions, and how is success even defined?

This lecture will look into key factors influencing the development of Korean aesthetics and the construction of national identity in Korean contemporary art. We will look at both, the discourse on contemporary Korean art within Korea and overseas. Specifically, we will examine art exhibitions and market structures, government policies on art education and the representation of art at local levels, as well as the presentation of Korean art at international art venues, such as the Venice Biennale.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Jongmin Paek is an Independent Scholar specializing in Korean Art History, Modern and Contemporary Art, Cultural Studies. Most recently Paek was the Korea Foundation and Academy of Korean Studies Visiting Professor of Korean Studies at Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Italy (2010-2015). Her research interests include Korean and Asian art history; theory and criticism; history of modernity, race and ethnicity; and construction of social identities. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Korean Studies at Hamburg University.