



Press release, 4 November 2024

**Gwangju, South Korea, a city symbolizing democracy and resistance –
The German Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale 2024 has been transformed into a space for
transnational exchange and dialogue**

Artists collective Longega Project: Fabian Feichter, Youlee Ku, Siyoung Kim, Nele Ka, Oliver Haussmann

Exhibition: „in between water – 두물마을“

Duration: September 8 – December 1, 2024

Venue: Gwangju History & Folk Museum, 48 -25 Seoha-ro, Buk-gu, Gwangju, South Korea

Curation:

Longega Project in cooperation with PLATFORM Munich and Sophie-Charlotte Bombeck



Longega Project, „Stöa“, exhibition “in between water”, German Pavilion at the 15th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea.
Photo: Choi Jin Woong.

Gwangju, South Korea. The exhibition „in between water – 두물마을“ continues until 1 December at the first German Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale, a city known as a symbol of democracy and resistance. 1980 saw a student uprising in Gwangju to demonstrate against the military government and for democracy.

This resistance, brutally suppressed, left a lasting mark on the city and made it a symbol of the struggle for freedom. The Gwangju Uprising and its tragic events led not only to democratic changes in South Korea, but also to the creation of the Gwangju Biennale, the oldest art biennale in Asia.

This year, the Gwangju Biennale is receiving special attention as the South Korean writer Han Kang, who herself comes from Gwangju, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for her literary contribution to the reappraisal of the events. In her internationally acclaimed novel “Human Acts”, she processes the horrific experiences of the city she calls home. Her musical contribution to this year's opening ceremony of the Gwangju Biennale honored this place of remembrance culture once again.

It is against this historical backdrop that Germany is taking part in the Gwangju Biennale for the first time with a country pavilion. The German Pavilion features the **Longega Project** artists' collective. Members Fabian Feichter, Youlee Ku, Siyoung Kim, Nele Ka and Oliver Haussmann have created a democratic space for intercultural and transnational exchange. Their works and installations, conceived beyond national borders, invite guest artists and visitors to participate through collective processes.

Alongside the exhibition “in between water – 두물마을”, the German Pavilion was transformed into a vibrant place of encounter, where local artists from Gwangju and the Longega Project collective developed a diverse program. Performances, literary evenings, discussions and interactive formats were conceived in close collaboration, uniting both local and international perspectives.

Further events in the German Pavilion's NOVEMBER program

10 November 2024, 2 – 6 p.m.

re-member (ver. Longega), Workshop with Jayi Kim

16 November 2024, 2 – 4 p.m.

Vom Wald/From the Forest, Workshop for children by Sul Park

17 November 2024, 2 p.m.

Herta, Workshop by Seyoung Youn

23 November 2024, 2 p.m.

Schwebende Hütte / Floating Hut, Performance with Jehyun Shin, Biju Lee, Sung Yong Hong, Hyojin Park, Jee Yeon Kim, Jae in Hwang and Yuri Seo

24 November 2024, 2 p.m.

Flamme sein / Wide Awake Flame, Performance by Shin Dowon, PFunk PFama, Gim Girin Sunhwa with Klaus Erika Dietl and Stephanie Müller aka Rag*Treasure.

24 November 2024, 3 – 5 p.m.

Public Playground, Community sound playground with public recording by Klaus Erika Dietl and Stephanie Müller

Further information: german-pavilion-gwangju-biennale.org

About the exhibition „in between water – 두물마을“

Longega Project displays multiple installations throughout the German pavilion as elements of the



artistic and collaborative processes. Over the course of the exhibition, a sculptural wooden hut with an offset roof serves as a stage for performances, readings, music performances and workshops by invited guest artists.

An installation featuring fluorescent plants refers to the ancient human drive to forage and gather. An installation of trees standing on vibrating fitness plates addresses a life between contemplation and the compulsion to optimize. An electric campfire and sculptures inspired by folklore instruments invite visitors to share their stories. A reconstructed bridge made of wax generates a tension between dysfunctionality and symbolic power.



Artists' collective Longega Project: (f.l.t.r.) Oliver Haussmann, Nele Ka, Youlee Ku, Siyoung Kim, Fabian Feichter. Foto: Yegju Shin.

The German Pavilion is curated by **Longega Project** in collaboration with **PLATFORM Munich** and **Sophie-Charlotte Bombeck**, who has been running a residency program between Gwangju and Munich together with artist **Siyoung Kim** since 2018. Building on long-standing relationships, the basis for a permanent country presence in the dialogue between Germany and Korea is now being laid in cooperation with PLATFORM Munich and Horanggasy Creative Studio (Gwangju).

Invited guest artists: Claudio Matthias Bertolini, Federico Delfrati, Sung Young Hong, François Huber, Ho Bin Kim, Hyesoon Kim, Hwang Mi Young, Jayi Kim, Kyu Nyun Kim, Micah Monique Vandendriessche, Stephanie Müller & Klaus Erika Dietl, Sool Park, Sul Park, Jehyun Shin, Seyoung Youn, Chosun University in Gwangju, So Yeon Kim, Younggi Seo



About the participants

Longega Project

Longega Project is an exchange program for artists, founded by Fabian Feichter and Youlee Ku. The headquarters are located in Longega (South Tyrol, Italy) at an altitude of 1,000 meters above sea level. Since 2017, Longega Project has been inviting artists from South Korea and Germany to the Longega Project International Artist House in South Tyrol, Italy, every summer. In 2019, organizational members Siyoung Kim and Judith Neunhäuserer joined the project. Since this year, one artist from South Tyrol has been invited to the Horanggasy Creative Studio in Gwangju, South Korea, as part of the exchange program. The project is based on the desire to enable artists to spend time in the landscape of South Tyrol and to promote an exchange of ideas and joint artistic activities. The results of the residencies of international artists and their exchange have been presented at several locations. Longega Project regularly organizes events, workshops and exhibitions together with the residency artists

www.longegaproject.art

Meet the Artists of Longega Project

Fabian Feichter (born 1986 in Brixen, Italy) lives and works between Munich, South Tyrol and South Korea. Feichter comes from an artistic family: his father and grandfather are wood sculptors, his mother is a painter and musician. In 2014, he completed his studies in sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich as a master student of Prof. Olaf Metzel. His final project was awarded the DAAD Prize. In 2019, he received the Ludwig Gies Prize from the LETTER Foundation. It is a journey through small stories or experiences that may not always be the most relevant, but still spark a spark, that are of the utmost interest to him. Feichter's works, realized in different media, such as sculptures or installations, are often characterized by a sarcastic humor. He is interested in the moments of feeling, through which he creates experiences with a wide range of emotions and gives great importance to small moments. Since 2017, he has been experimenting with analog electronic music and is part of three music groups: Kunststoffwerkstatt, Verra and Frauenstrasse. In the same year, he founded the Longega Project with Youlee Ku.

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Youlee Ku (b. 1988 in Seoul, South Korea) lives and works between South Korea, Italy, and Germany. From 2007 to 2012, she studied in the Department of Fine Arts at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, and from 2014 she studied under Prof. Olaf Metzel and Prof. Alexandra Bircken at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. In her artistic practice, she incorporates elements from her surroundings and phenomena from the cultures around her. She engages with various materials, techniques, and approaches. Her work includes installations and performances, video pieces, as well as plastic art and sculptures. Themes such as the relationship between art and nature, the history of origin, states of presence and absence, and the transition between form, transformation, and deformation are at the core of her artistic interest. Youlee Ku has participated in several international exhibitions and has been making experimental music and performances as part of the band Verra since 2018. She has realized a number of art festivals and exhibitions and co-founded the Longega Project in 2017.

www.kuyoulee.com

@youleeku

Siyoung Kim (b. 1976 in Berlin) based in Munich, Germany, graduated with a BFA in painting from Chosun University in Gwangju, Korea, and then completed her diploma at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich under Prof. Axel Kasseböhmer and Prof. Schirin Kretschamann. In addition to her artistic work, she is involved as a project partner for artists in residence, especially between Korea, Germany and South Tyrol. Since 2021 she is a member of the Longega Project. Since 2019, Siyoung Kim has curated



various exhibitions and projects and participated in numerous exhibitions as an artist, including 'hey alter' at the Pinakothek der Moderne 2023. She has been awarded 2024 City of Munich Prize in the field of Fine Arts.

Siyoung Kim's artistic work is a multi-layered expression of human society, captured from different perspectives. As an observer of the diversity of different cultures, she has had both inspiring and disconcerting experiences. The fusion of these influences is reflected in her wide range of media including drawing, collage, photography, video and embroidery. Her work is often about juxtapositions. She contrasts the innocence of cute dolls with themes of violence beneath seemingly idyllic scenes. Her detailed embroideries express the aesthetic of nature, using a slow, artisanal process that opposes modern speed and productivity.

www.siyoungkim.com

@_siyoung_kim_

Nele Ka, materialised in SAO-21846 Cassiopeiae in 2598, is part of a species – the Transplanetarians [Pre-tempus, Immortalibus, Amantes, Curiosæ]. The Transplanetarians travel between solar systems in search of the cause of transient existence. They have been stationed on the blue planet for an indefinite period of time. Their research mission: [C0-M/M-01;00] to find connections and relationships that seem impossible in the context of social inequalities. To explore questions of mortality, time and consciousness. Using different materials and concepts, experimental arrangements are developed that question paradigms and involve more-than humans. They are always processual and fragmentary narratives, centered around non-linear time axes of interstellar post/ apocalypses. NELE KA is part of Longega Project since the Artist Residency 2021 and currently located in Munich at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich with Prof. Pamela Rosenkranz. Ongoing research has been presented at Kunstpavillon Munich, Castle Eggkofen, MaximiliansForum, Apartment der Kunst, Marburger Kunstverein, Galerie der Künstler, Galerie Noah, JETLEG Biennale, Space n.n., Rosa Stern, as well as in collaborations, such as HTSSNASS:S in Super Books at Haus der Kunst, MAGIK MIKE at Kunstarealfest Munich and Future Perfect Collective

www.nele-ka.de

@n_e_l_e_k_a

Oliver Haussmann, (b. Heidelberg, Germany) lives and works in Munich. He invents and creates his own worlds in his paintings, which in turn follow their own rules. He negotiates symbioses and compositions of digital and analogue aesthetics. He is interested in how spaces are constructed in the digital world and how different interfaces and games build visual and narrative logics. He is interested in how our visual experiences change in the course of digitalization and how new aesthetic realities are derived from this. By transferring visual concepts and logics from the digital world and mixing analog material from art history into painting, his investigation is directly linked to the digital transformation of our society.

He studied communication design and fine arts at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich with Pia Fries as a master student since 2022. He is part of the Longega Project with the Artist Residency 2021. 2022 he was nominated for Karl&Faber Art Prize. He received Kulturförderpreis of LfA Förderbank Bayern 2018 and the First Prize of Short Film Festival 'kurz und schön' 2014 in Cologne. He exhibited at Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Bavarian State Ministry for Science and Art, Munich, Erholungshaus Bayer-Kultur, Leverkusen, Braun-Falco Galerie, Radierverein Munich, MaximilianForum, Lothringer Halle, etc.

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Organization of the German Pavilion: PLATFORM Munich

PLATFORM is a versatile art space in Munich that hosts a year-round exhibition program. In addition to one-year internships in cultural management, PLATFORM offers studios and exhibition spaces, making it a vibrant place for artistic practice and mediation. Spanning 2500 m² in a former industrial complex, PLATFORM promotes continuous exchange between artists and cultural workers. It showcases contemporary art curated by both regional and international curators and organizes lectures and symposia to stimulate current art discourse. The diverse cultural projects, workshops, and educational activities contribute to its reputation as a dynamic platform for art.



Sophie-Charlotte Bombeck

(*1991) lives and works in Augsburg and Munich. She explores the interactions between art, science, aesthetics, and societal trends. As the operator of the art space "super+Centercourt," she is involved in numerous international projects. She has curated the first Lindau Biennale in 2022 and has initiated the comprehensive exchange program between Munich and South Korea, which started in 2018. Bombeck curated exhibitions in Germany, China, Turkey, Greece, England, and South Korea. She is continually seeking opportunities to reshape the contemporary art landscape and provide a platform for emerging artists.

www.studio-bombeck.com

@studio_bombeck

Cooperation Partner: Horanggasy Creative Studio and Residency (Gwangju)

Horanggasy Creative Studio in Yangnim-dong runs an annual multidisciplinary Artist in Residence program to support young artists and contribute to the local community. Since the program's inception, there have been various intercultural interactions between artists from Munich, Lisbon, Italy, and Vienna. Since 2021, Horanggasy Creative Studio has also hosted the Gwangju Biennale, providing space for creative and intercultural interactions between artists of diverse background.

Venue: Gwangju History & Folk Museum

The Gwangju History & Folk Museum presents a generous exhibition space of over 750 m² for the first German Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale and the extensive installation by Longega Project.

Funding

The German Pavilion at the 15th Gwangju Biennale is realized through the ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen with financial support from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

The artists will be happy to talk to you. To contact the artists, please get in touch with the press contact.

You will find press images available for download here:

www.plattform-muenchen.de/presse/

Instagram @germanpavilion.gwangjubiennale

www.german-pavilion-gwangju-biennale.de

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