

GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY

MEDIA RELEASE



CITY WITHIN THE CITY PRESENTED BY GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY AND MELBOURNE FESTIVAL
EXHIBITION DATES: 5 OCTOBER - 7 NOVEMBER 2012 | MELBOURNE FESTIVAL 11-27 OCTOBER 2012

ARTISTS: ABRAHAM CRUZVILLEGAS (MEXICO), NAYLA DABAJI AND ZIAD BITAR (LEBANON), ALICIA FRANKOVICH (AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND), EMIL GOH (AUSTRALIA / MALAYSIA), JINYEOL JUNG AND CHANGMO AHN (SOUTH KOREA), YEONDOO JUNG (SOUTH KOREA), ASH KEATING (AUSTRALIA), KIM BEOM (SOUTH KOREA), JOOYOUNG LEE (SOUTH KOREA), MINOUK LIM (SOUTH KOREA), LISTEN TO THE CITY (SOUTH KOREA), ANDREW MCQUALTER (AUSTRALIA), PART-TIME SUITE (SOUTH KOREA), HYUNSUK SEO (SOUTH KOREA), HAEGUE YANG (SOUTH KOREA), JUN YANG (TAIWAN), SUYEON YUN AND JINYOUNG KOH (SOUTH KOREA)

CURATOR IUM: SUNJUNG KIM, CLAUDIA PESTANA, HYEJIN LIM (ART SONJE/SAMUSO) WITH ALEXIE GLASS-KANTOR, EMILY CORMACK, AMITA KIRPALANI (GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY)

CURATORIAL ASSISTANT: MICHAEL BALDWIN

THE CURATION OF THE MELBOURNE ITERATION OF *CITY WITHIN THE CITY* HAS BEEN LEAD BY AMITA KIRPALANI AND HYEJIN LIM

With the majority of the world's population dwelling in cities, it is not just our bodies that are contained within urban commercial and industrialized zones – but our imaginations as well. *City Within the City* examines how through activating urban spaces, we might engender them as sites for creative expression, transgression and resistance.

Co-curated by Gertrude Contemporary and Artsonje Center, Seoul *City Within the City*, features seventeen Australian and international artists whose works reveal the personal, fictional, composite and re-purposed narratives that arise when human subjectivity encounters the built environment.

Presented initially at Art Sonje, Seoul in November 2011, *City Within the City* at Gertrude Contemporary includes major new installation works by Australian artists Ash Keating, Alicia Frankovich and Andrew McQualter.

In Ash Keating's work *Gertrude Modern* (2012) (pictured above) he satirizes Fitzroy's accelerated gentrification process through transforming the front window of Gertrude Contemporary into a giant billboard advertising a fictional apartment building. Andrew McQualter's new wall drawings occupy a purpose built reading room and investigates the intersections between Plato's *Republic* - a city made out of conversations – and China Mieville's impossible, interconnected cities.

Berlin-based Alicia Frankovich's new sculpture and video work *Volution* (2011) and *Choreography 1* (2011) explore the limitations of movement within the urban environment. The exhibition also features a selection of key works from the estate of Emil Goh, along with works by internationally acclaimed artists Haegue Yang, Kim Beom and Minouk Lim, among many others. The works in *City Within the City* draw on literature, architecture, landscape urbanism and cinema history in their examination of the relationship between humanity and our built environment.

City Within the City is curated for the Melbourne International Arts Festival 2012.

City Within the City was first presented at Artsonje Centre (11 November 2011 – 15 January 2012) as a flagship cultural project for the diplomatic Year of Australia – South Korea Friendship.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of ARKO funding to support collaborative group Part-time Suite's 4-week residency in Australia to make new work for the exhibition. This exhibition has also been made possible with the support of Russell Investments and Cake industries.

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For images or interviews with the artists please contact Amita Kirpalani on 03-94193406