

MOON Kyungwon & JEON Joonho: News from Nowhere

2022.5.3 (Tue.) - 2022.9.4 (Sun.)



El Fin del Mundo 2012
2 channel HD video installation with sound.
13 min. 35sec
Collection of 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
© MOON Kyungwon and JEON Joonho

Exhibition Title	MOON Kyungwon & JEON Joonho: News from Nowhere
Period	Tuesday/holiday, May 3, 2022 – Sunday, September 4, 2022
Hours	10:00-18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays) *Ticket sales end 30 minutes before closing
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Galleries 7 to 12
Closed	Mondays (except July 18 and August 15), July 19, August 16
Admission	Adults: ¥1,200 (¥1,000) / Students: ¥800 (¥600) 18 and under: ¥400 (¥300) / 65 and over: ¥1,000 *Fees in parentheses are for groups of 20 or more and web tickets *Tickets for this exhibition include admission (same day only) to “Collection Exhibition 2: BLUE” (May 3, 2022 – May 8, 2022) and “Collection Exhibition 1: Vessels” (May 21, 2022 – September 4, 2022)
Timed-entry tickets	Web tickets for specific days/times go on sale at 10:00, April 1, 2022 Web tickets for specific days/times are available on museum website (https://www.kanazawa21.jp)
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)
Inquiries	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2800

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**About
the Exhibition**

This is the first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan by the leading contemporary Korean artist duo, Moon Kyungwon and Jeon Joonho. Since their formation, Moon and Jeon have explored the social functions and roles of art while advocating for practical platforms for dialogue and collaboration among professionals from various fields.

The exhibition will focus on a new video installation depicting the struggle of future humans for survival and freedom in a poetic manner; *News from Nowhere: Freedom Village*, which was exhibited at the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea in 2021; as well as *El Fin del Mundo*, a masterpiece that captures the different time frames before and after the apocalypse and their connections in an intricate and elaborate manner.

Also showcased will be works created during their residency in the Kanaiwa area of Kanazawa City that they have been creating since 2018, presenting their thoughts and activities from multiple perspectives through video, drawings, and maquettes. This promises to be an opportunity to fully experience the world of their works, which extracts the issues facing contemporary society and poses powerful messages for us who live in the present to ponder while shuttling back and forth between the future and the past.

Artist profile**MOON Kyungwon**

Born 1969 in Seoul, South Korea (left)

JEON Joonho

Born 1969 in Busan, South Korea (right)

Artist duo made up of Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho. In recent years, their practice has focused on the collaborative project “News from Nowhere”, which centers on creating an interdisciplinary platform. Their first site-specific collaborative work was presented at documenta in 2012. Selected solo exhibitions include “News from Nowhere” at the Art Institute of Chicago, 2013; Migros Museum of Contemporary Art, Zurich, 2015; “The Ways of Folding Space & Flying” at the Korean Pavilion, Venice Biennale, 2017; “Freedom Village” at SCAI the Bathhouse, Tokyo, Japan, 2017; “News from Nowhere” at the Tate Liverpool, 2018-2019; “News from Nowhere: Freedom Village” at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea, 2021; and the Oku-Noto Triennale 2020+, Suzu, Ishikawa, Japan, 2021, among others. At the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Moon & Jeon have participated in Culture City of East Asia 2018 “Altering Home,” the 15th anniversary of the museum’s opening in 2019 with “Where We Now Stand—In Order to Map the Future [I],” and the 2018-2019 JICHIKU Region AIR Kanaiwa-Ono Art Project.



MOON Kyungwon & JEON Joonho

Exhibition
features**First large-scale solo exhibition in Japan by the leading contemporary Korean artist duo MOON Kyungwon & JEON Joonho**

Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho are a leading contemporary Korean artist duo, internationally acclaimed for their video works that extract issues facing contemporary society in order to transmit poetic and symbolic messages to those living in such a society. Since their formation in 2009, the duo has developed their works around the project “News from Nowhere,”* which asks the question: what are the social functions and roles of art in the contemporary world? The 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa is pleased to present the first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan by Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho.

*“News from Nowhere” is named after the novel of the same name by William Morris.



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News from Nowhere : Freedom Village, 2021
 2 channel HD film installation, color, sound 14 min. 35 sec.
 installation view at National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea

A multifaceted introduction to Moon & Jeon’s cross-disciplinary and cross-historical thinking and activities centering on three large-scale video installations, including a new work produced for this exhibition

The new work produced for this exhibition is a video installation that includes scenes filmed by Moon & Jeon during their residency in the Kanaiwa district of Kanazawa, Japan. The exhibition will introduce Moon & Jeon’s cross-disciplinary and cross-historical thinking and practice from multiple perspectives, centering on three large-scale video installations, including their masterpiece *El Fin del Mundo*, which is also in the museum’s collection, and *News from Nowhere: Freedom Village*, a video installation shown at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, in 2021.

An exhibition that deciphers the current state of the world through a cross-historical perspective

This exhibition centers on three video installations. The first is a new video installation that depicts the human will and struggle for freedom, moving back and forth between reality and virtual reality. The second piece, *News from Nowhere: Freedom Village*, the latest in the “Freedom Village” series, traverses history from the past to the future based on the theme of a village that exists in the demilitarized zone between South Korea and North Korea, which is considered to be geopolitically invisible. The third piece is *El Fin del Mundo*, which features two intersecting stories, one from the post-apocalyptic future, and the other from the past. All of these works move back and forth between documentary and fiction, questioning the contradictions of our social systems, as well as the state of the nation and the world. The current state of the world is deciphered through the cross-historical perspective that underlies these works.

**Main works in
the exhibition**
***News from Nowhere: Eclipse* 2022**
single channel HD film installation 17 min. 5 sec.

This is a new video installation being presented for the first time at this exhibition. A man lives in danger on the deserted open seas with only a lifeboat as his home. The work depicts how the human will seeks out a fundamental degree of freedom, even as it longs to be liberated from the domination of the world of virtual reality to which it is beholden. In a space that resembles a cage of light, images projected on large LED panels are synchronized with sound and lighting, immersing viewers in the world of the work.

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4.5.
News from Nowhere: Eclipse, 2022
single channel HD film installation, sound, light
17 min. 5 sec.

***News from Nowhere : Freedom Village* 2021**
2 channel HD film installation 14 min. 35 sec.

In this latest work in the “Freedom Village” series, the residents of a village located in the demilitarized zone between South and North Korea and characters living in the future intersect across time and space to depict two worlds created by an ideological dichotomy. The artists call this work “an introspective look at institutions and social systems” and “a metaphorical space that opens up new perspectives in order to evoke richly imaginative concepts.” In addition to video images projected onto both the front and back sides of large LED panels, this large, complex installation is also composed of sound, painting, photography, and text. The work was created in collaboration with the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea.



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News from Nowhere : Freedom Village, 2021
2 channel HD film installation, color, sound
14 min. 35 sec.
installation view at National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea
For the project “MMCA Hyundai Motor series NEWS FROM NOWHERE.”
Co-organized by National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea

El Fin del Mundo* 2012*2 channel HD video installation 13 min. 35 sec.**

The images projected on these two screens offer us a parallel glimpse of the “present,” which depicts the activities of a male artist, and the “future,” in which a woman living in the post-apocalypse goes off to investigate civilizations from the old world. The woman in the “future” comes into contact with the “present” through vestiges of the artworks created by the man. Here, Moon & Jeon deploy the dual projection technique to its fullest, and the different time axes before and after the apocalypse and the connections between them are elaborately depicted as a world of images, in which a clear concept, well-honed artistic expression, and a high level of visual polish and perfection coexist.

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7,8.

El Fin del Mundo 2012

2 channel HD video installation with sound.

13 min. 35sec

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Silent Planet* 2020-2021*2 channel HD video installation with sound. 7min. 48sec.**

This is a new video work created for this exhibition, related to the aforementioned *News from Nowhere: Eclipse*. Using video footage shot by the artists, who participated in the museum’s artist-in-residence program and stayed in the Kanaiwa district of Kanazawa City as resident artists, the work depicts an “absent village where everyone has vanished.” In the same gallery, drawings and maquettes created through research conducted in the Kanaiwa district will also be exhibited, making reference to the expansion of the district’s functions and the transformation of its landscape while bringing its distinctive characteristics to the fore.

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*Silent Planet*, 2020-2021

2 channel HD video installation with sound. 7min. 48sec.

Related Event**Artists Talk**

"Artists Talk: MOON Kyungwon and JEON Joonho"

※Japanese consecutive interpretation will be provided.

Date/time: May 3, 2022 (Tue/hol) 13:00-15:00

Venue: Lecture Hall, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Seats: 90 (First come, First served. Advanced application required.)

Admission: Free

Language: English, Korean / Japanese (with consecutive interpretation)

**Images for
Publicity**

Images 1–9 are available to the press from the Museum's Public Relations Office (press@kanazawa21.jp) based agreement to the following conditions.

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