

ARTISTS SPACE

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MIN JOONG ART: A NEW CULTURAL MOVEMENT FROM KOREA

Curated by Wan Kyung Sung and Hyuk Um

Byungsoo Choi
Durung
Boksoo Jung
Yongtai Kim
Kwangju Visual Art Research Institute
Jonggu Lee
Ocksang Lim
Jungki Min
Yoon Oh
Buldong Park
The Photo Collective for Social Movement
People's Art School
Chang Song

An exhibition of multi-disciplinary work and video (see separate press release for video program) by South Korean artists who are cutting across sociopolitical, economic and aesthetic boundaries in order to reposses a more truly Korean cultural identity as opposed to one influenced by the West and Japan.

Organized to coincide with the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, this exhibition of Min Joong art, or "art of the people," represents a counterpoint to the abstract and minimal work that will be exhibited in the extensive cultural exhibitions planned for the Olympics. The Min Joong cultural movement began in literature in the 1970's and demanded that "politics, society, and economy must be reassessed from the viewpoint of the people." Curator, Hyuk Um, outlines the four strategies Min Joong visual artists have chosen as follows: 1) "Reaction and response" to art for art's sake; 2) Syncretic combinations of indigenous and Western means of expression, applied to national political issues; 3) Total resistance to European and American mainstream art; and 4) Art as a weapon.

Yoon Oh, a leader and originator of the visual arts branch of the movement, dynamically expresses views of Korean society in bold woodcut prints, a traditional folk art

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form in Korea. The Durung and Kwangju groups use colorful banners and murals in neighborhoods and protest movements and Jonggu Lee paints his portraits of working people on burlap sacks. Photography is used in a variety of ways including the photo-documentary portraits of the Photo Collective for Social Movement, the collages of Buldong Park which parody the Western and Japanese commercial presence, and Yongtai Kim's humorous cross-cultural portraits of visitors to the DMZ zone. And, ecological and agricultural devastation brought on by technology and militarism is the subject of the powerful paintings of Ocksang Lim and Chang Song.

This exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with essays by Yoon Soo Kim, Lucy Lippard, Kwang Hyun Shim, and Wan Kyung Sung. Catalogue is available for \$5.00.

Cultural Politics Between the First and Third Worlds, a program of Korean films and panel discussion will be held in conjunction with the Min Joong Art exhibition October 15 and 16 at The Collective for Living Cinema.

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