

GALLERIA RAFFAELLA CORTESE

PRESS RELEASE

KIMSOOJA



Kimsooja
Keren Cytter
Marcello Maloberti

via a.stradella 1
via a.stradella 7
via a.stradella 4

opening 3rd new space

opening reception september 24 7.00 | 9.00 pm
september 24 | november 13 2014
tuesday saturday 10.00 1.00 pm | 3.00 7.30 pm

Raffaella Cortese is pleased to present in the gallery space in via Stradella 1 a solo show by Kimsooja, whom the gallery has been working with since 2005. Kimsooja has exhibited in major Italian institutions, such as Fondazione Bevilacqua la Masa/ Teatro la Fenice, Venice in 2006, PAC, Milan in 2004, Palazzo delle Poste, Trieste in 2001.

Kimsooja is an internationally acclaimed, Korean born conceptual multi media artist. Combining performance, video, photo and installation, her work addresses issues of the displaced self and the other, while investigating the dualistic and existential nature of philosophy such as the relationship of yin and yang to life and death; mobility to immobility; and location to dislocation that evolves various fundamental problems of life and art.

In 2013, Kimsooja represented Korea at the 55th Venice Biennial with a site-specific project, entitled *To Breathe: Bottari*. Approaching the architecture of the Korean Pavilion as a bottari, the artist wrapped the division between nature and the interior space with a translucent diffraction grating film, accompanied by an anechoic dark room that completely transformed the space into an experiential and transcendental environment in which the audience was invited to be the live and active performers.

For the exhibition at Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Kimsooja presents two distinct series which explore the natural phenomenon of light and darkness to evoke two visual extremes that are connected as part of a whole. The *To Breathe* lightbox series (2013) are based on images created during the installation in Venice, and are presented alongside the photographic series *The Sun - Unfolded*, which were created in Goa, India in 2008. Rendered as lightboxes, the *To Breathe* works further investigate the architecture of color through surface, reflection and abstraction, while *The Sun - Unfolded* shows circles of spectral color taking shape in concentric waves around the sun, creating forms reminiscent of a mandala or the sun as a breathing body.

Kimsooja (Taegu, Korea, 1957) lives and works in New York since 1999.

She has exhibited in many major museums: Collection Lambert en Avignon (2014); Vancouver Art Gallery (2013), Museum of Modern Art St. Etienne (2012); Kunsthal 44 Møen (2012); Perm Contemporary Art Museum, Russia (2012); Miami Art Museum (2012); Feldkirch Church and Kunstmuseum Lichtenstein (2010); National Museum of Contemporary Art Korea for the Yeong Gwang Nuclear Power Plant (2010); Atelier Hermes, Seoul (2009); Baltic Center, London (2009); Hirshhorn Museum (2008); Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa & La Fenice Theatre, Venice (2006); Crystal Palace of Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid (2006); Kunsthalle Wien (2002); Kunsthalle Bern (2002); Palazzo delle Poste, Trieste (2001), MoMA PS1 (2001).

She has taken part to important Biennials: Venice (1999, 2005, 2013), Sao Paolo (1997), Whitney Biennial (2002), Istanbul (1997), Lyon (2000), Gwangju (1995, 2012), Thessaloniki (2010), Moscow (2009) and Poznan (2010).

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