

Tying

Yongju Kwon

September 7 – October 5, 2017

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 7, 6-8 PM

DOOSAN Gallery New York is pleased to announce Yongju Kwon's solo exhibition "Tying," from September 7th through October 5th, 2017.

Yongju Kwon has been contemplating and studying the idea of survival through observing the moving routes of discarded objects as well as looking at the lives of blue-collar workers. In 2014, Kwon participated in an art project hosted by Jim Thompson, a textile mill in Thailand, and was able to research the cross-cultural similarities among individuals working within specialized industries. In addition, by using his side job (one in which he needs in order to maintain his livelihood) as the content for his artistic practice, Kwon questions the value of the labor of an artist. Through this exhibition, the artist continues his exploration of revealing the various layers within the sentiments behind labor.

This exhibition centers around Kwon's magnum opus *Tying* (2014-2016) and will also comprise of *The Almighty Wall* (2014), as well as his new piece *As Boring As Possible* (2017). *Tying* consists of a video component along with a woven silk piece and a dyed thread installation. The 28-minute video footage includes the interview audio of the artist's mother, who had worked at a Korean textile factory for over thirty years, and a factory worker from Jim Thompson. Differing from the 2014 version where the work was shown in three channels, the artist takes the content from both interviews along with the repetitive movement of the factory's machines and interchanges them within a single channel frame.

"Whether you are dragged to live on a gravel or sand field, you would be able to lay the cornerstone, build a house, and survive," Kwon's mother says of herself in the interview. These words that characterize someone with an iron strong will are shown in the video, embroidered in gold on a piece of silk by a jacquard loom. The jacquard silk piece from the video is presented in the exhibition space with the dyed thread installation that mirrors a portion of the textile mill.

Multi-Use Wall (2014) contemplates Kwon's own identity as an artist as well as a worker. While the artist displays video work that depicts his production process in the gallery, in the ending credit of the video, he reveals his production company "buup" (which means side job or day job in Korean) and includes its contact information, thereby breaking down the boundary between fine art and commercial advertisement.

Shown adjacent to *Multi-Use Wall* is *As boring as Possible* (2017). *As Boring as Possible* juxtaposes physical labor of constructing a wall alongside the intellectual labor of an exhibition specialist. The artist shows the process of exhibition design in a time-lapse form on a computer screen. Within this footage includes the artist's interior design process of projects he had overseen, such as *Extraordinary Phenomenon*, Nam June Paik Art Center; Forum A's Gwangju Biennial reconstruction project; *NANJI 10 YEARS: SeMA NANJI RESIDENCY Archive Exhibition*, Seoul Museum of Art; and, the CR Collective space for Project Acts.



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DOOSAN encourages and supports young artists and their innovative endeavours

Yongju Kwon (b.1977) received his B.F.A. in Environmental Sculpture at the University of Seoul. He has held solo exhibitions at Art Space Pool (2016, Seoul, Korea), D Project Space (2014, Seoul, Korea), Seoul Art Space Mullae (2011, Seoul, Korea), and Insa Art Space (2010, Seoul, Korea). He showed in group exhibitions at Indipress (2016, Seoul, Korea), DOOSAN Gallery New York (2016, New York, United States), Gyeonggi Museum of Art (2015, Ansan, Korea), National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (2014, Gwacheon, Korea), Seoul Art Space Geumcheon (2014, Seoul, Korea), DOOSANGallery Seoul (2014, Seoul, Korea), Gallery Factory (2013, Seoul, Korea), Culture Station Seoul 284 (2012, Seoul, Korea), Art Space Pool (2011, Seoul, Korea), Art Space Boan (2009, Seoul, Korea), and many more.

About DOOSAN Gallery and DOOSAN Residency in New York

DOOSAN Gallery New York is a non-profit art gallery dedicated to the promotion and support of emerging Korean artists. Managed by DOOSAN YONKANG Foundation in Seoul, Korea, DOOSAN Gallery New York is Korea's first non-profit organization to be officially recognized by the State of New York and the New York City Department of Education. The gallery is run alongside **DOOSAN Residency New York**, a six-month residency program that hosts three artists each season. Participating artists are provided with housing, individual studios, and the opportunity to exhibit their work at the gallery in Chelsea, New York. DOOSAN Residency New York aims to form networks and conversations between its resident artists and professionals in the larger New York area.



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