

Archaeology of Adoption
August 27 – September 24, 2008
Gallery Korea, Korean Cultural Service
460 Park Avenue @57th ST, New York, NY

Opening Reception with the Artists: Wednesday, September 3, 6-8pm

The world was not created once and for all time for each of us individually. There are added to it in the course of our life things of which we have never had any suspicion.

-Marcel Proust

Dear Friends,

AHL Foundation – a not-for-profit arts foundation - is proud to present Archaeology of Adoption, an Exhibition for Korean Adoptee Artists. AHL attempts to focus on artists who deal with relatively relegated issues through their experience as Korean adoptees. This exhibition addresses the issue of adoption, something the artists have taken for granted, and shares it with audiences who may not have thought about it. Moreover, adoption, in itself, jeopardizes all the social constructs on memory, nostalgia, and on what composes a family. The artists in this exhibition raise questions such as how one can trace something that they never experienced or whether nostalgia for a specific place could be strong to those who had spent a very short time there.

The issue of adoption has been marginalized in the postcolonial and identity political discourse. Identity as a Korean adoptee is on the border of established racial, national, and cultural boundaries. Artists in this exhibition challenge all kinds of accepted notions that we take for granted and also, never give up. Furthermore, the artists tackle what can be called blind spots in discussing the issue of adoption. Maya Weimer interviews Korean birth mothers, who abandoned their own children, transforming it into video work with images while the identities of the women are hidden. Jane Jin Kaisen explores the way adoption has conveyed Orientalism as Asian babies were regarded as the exotic Other. Jung Woo Lim, a director, made a documentary film of an adoptee, following his travel to Korea in order to meet his birth family. Jette Hye Jin Mortensen shows a mock documentary, where she juxtaposes archival images of the Danish composer Carl Nielsen with those of her great grandfather. We bring in other adoptee artists who challenge all the established notions including identity and nationality.

Marcel Proust said "Only through art can we emerge from ourselves and know what another person sees." AHL Foundation tries to make an opportunity for the public to encounter a new experience through this exhibition, and an opportunity for the adoptee artists to communicate their messages and experiences with the public.

We would like to request your support in providing this opportunity to the artists of this exhibition. Your participation and sponsorship would be greatly appreciated. The names of donors, regardless of the amount, will be printed inside the Exhibition Catalogue. (the catalogue dead line is July 30,2008)

Please send your donation to:
AHL Foundation, Inc.
545 Asharoken Ave.
Northport, NY 11768

If you have any questions or would like additional information,
please contact Eunyoung Kang at 646-201-5398 or ahlfoundation@mac.com