

Kimsooja, *Mumbai-A Laundry Field*

June 27 – October 4 2009

Private view: Saturday 27 June at Le Moulin:

- From 6pm to midnight:
 - 6 pm: tour of the exhibition and cocktails
 - 9 pm–midnight: rustic banquet and DJ Set on the river bank

The artist Kimsooja (Born 1957, Taegu, Korea) acts as a visual and spiritual mediator through a metaphor for life which viewers are invited to contemplate.

Since the early '80s, Kimsooja began to include colourful used and popular fabrics in her work. Her fascination with textiles specifically began in 1983. It was a very precise moment in her life, when she was sewing a Korean bedspread with her mother.

At that time, she was questioning the concept of "painting's surface dimension". When she first placed a needle into the structure of a fabric, she felt thrilled and joyful, as if a ray of immeasurable energy penetrated through her fingers and into her whole body, reaching to the needlepoint where it met the surface of the fabric. Since this very particular experience, Yin and Yang have become life's essential components for Kimsooja, and have evolved on a number of levels in her art.

Made of bright colours and decorated with symbolic embroideries, people use the textiles traditionally as bedcovers, but also to wrap into a bundle to carry personal belongings. Detached from a utilitarian context, the colourful fabrics develop aesthetics of their own and become universal symbols of life itself. While the character of the object was featured foremost at first, the human body became the object in space and time in the installation "Sewing into Walking" (1994), in which the artist moved her body as a symbolic 'needle', connecting between the bedcovers.

The work "Mumbai: A Laundry Field", showing at Galleria Continua, Beijing, in a 4 channel video format, evolved from the series "A Needle Woman" (1999-2001 and 2005). The series was filmed in cities and other locations around the world. The artist, in a featureless outfit, has her back to the camera, almost like a silhouette. The central figure is an unknown and common presence, an "everywoman", constantly portrayed as a fixed point in the flow of the passing crowds, or lying still while clouds pass overhead. In this video series, Kimsooja's body is always an anonymous presence moving into a deep phase of meditation, immersing in contemplative scenarios, breaking through the world's surface and deep into its soul, "like a needle in a haystack". The eye of the camera corresponds to that of the artist, standing apart, watching from a detached perspective. It is as if in a pure act of concentration the world vision would appear clearer and undisturbed through the narrow needle's "eye".

Most of Kimsooja's works seem to belong to a place where time is indefinable. They have in common universality, a timelessness that encapsulates both past and present. The present tense is then symbolised by the artist's body itself. The body becomes a medium or a void that the audience is invited to stare at.

Always on the move, Kimsooja explores the indefinable properties of fabric through video, sculpture, and installation. Her works often merge Eastern and Western traditions, observing and juxtaposing cultures and human conditions, investigating the common ground between the intimate and the universally global.

The images of the video work "Mumbai: A Laundry Field" are a mesmerizing experience of the beauty of colour. They have an incredibly powerful impact on the viewer, making one sway between a sense of enchantment and a deep dismay, constantly obliging one to question the hardship and tragedy of life while enjoying its aesthetic appeal.

GALLERIACONTINUA / Le Moulin 46 rue de la Ferté Gaucher, Boissy-le-Châtel (Seine-et-Marne)

From Paris, by car or train, allow an hour.

- Saturday 27th June, courtesy bus from Paris: leaves Paris at 5pm, meeting in front of the entrance of Jardin des Plantes, Place Valhubert 75005 Paris. Metro Gare d'Austerlitz, lines 5, 10 or RER C. Return to Paris around midnight. By prior booking only: lemoulin@galleriacontinua.com

- By car:

> Toll motorway: East motorway A4 direction Metz / Nancy. Take exit 16 Coulommiers, then the N34, go through Coulommiers. Follow Boissy-le-Châtel on the D222 and turn right onto the D66 towards Chauffry until Le Moulin.

> Main road: the A4 motorway towards Metz / Nancy. Take exit n°13 and continue on the D231 (the road to Provins). Then follow the D231 (road to Coulommiers) for 25 minutes and go over four roundabouts: 1st roundabout, take the 2nd exit; 2nd roundabout, go straight over taking the 2nd exit, carry on for 10 minutes; 3rd roundabout (known as the Obélisque) go straight over taking the 2nd exit, carry on for 15 minutes; 4th roundabout, take the 3rd exit on the left, towards the road to Coulommiers, on the D402.

Follow the signs for Coulommiers. Go past the Moulin de Mistou and go through Mauperthuis. Carry on for 5 minutes. At the 5th roundabout, carry on towards Coulommiers on the D402 (bypass southeast of Coulommiers). On arrival at the 6th roundabout, take the D934, 2nd exit. Go into Chailly-en-Brie. At the traffic-lights by the church, turn left into rue Saint-Médard (D37). Go past Chailly-en-Brie. Go into Boissy-Le-Châtel. Take the rue des papeteries and go past the level crossing and the former Moulin de Sainte-Marie paper-mill on your left. At the stop sign, take the D66 on the right (rue de la Ferté-Gaucher) until Le Moulin, situated on the right.

- Public transport: train from Gare de l'Est, to Coulommiers. Then bus exiting the station towards La Ferté Gaucher, stop: Moulin de Boissy / Chailly Boissy-le-Châtel.

The Moulin is open from June 27 to October 4, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 12 midday to 7pm.

GALLERIACONTINUA

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