



**489 years**

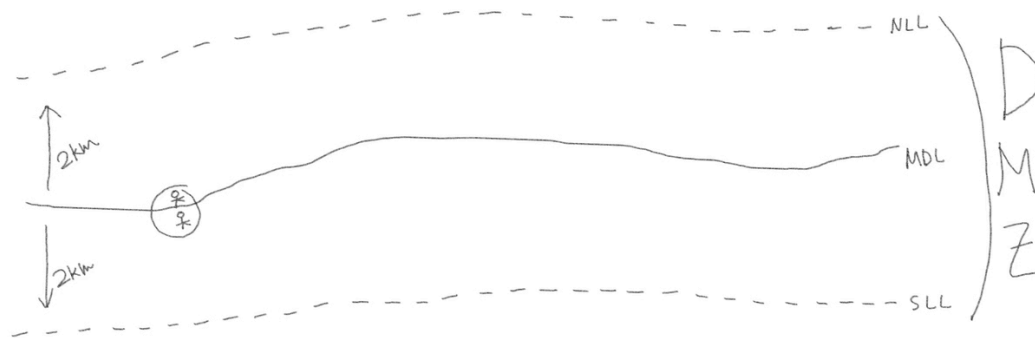
Hayoun Kwon

Centre d'Art et Photographie, Lectoure

30 April - 19 June 2016

## 489 years

Hayoun Kwon



Hayoun Kwon was born in 1981 in Seoul, South Korea. She lives and works in France. She graduated from the Ecole des beaux arts in Nantes (2008) and from the Fresnoy – National Studio for Contemporary Arts in Tourcoing (2011). She is the winner of the 2015 Friends of the Palais de Tokyo prize. Her recent exhibitions include two solo shows - *The accidental paradise* at gallery Dohyang Lee, Paris (2015) and *The forbidden journey* at the Ecole municipale des Beaux Arts in Châteauroux (2015) - as well as the group show *Real DMZ project 2015*, Samuso, Seoul, South Korea (2015). A solo exhibition will take place at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris in 2017.

All the works in this solo exhibition take as their object the demilitarised zone (DMZ) between South and North Korea that was established following the signing of the Panmunjom armistice on March 23rd 1953. This buffer zone is patrolled by some seven hundred thousand North Korean soldiers and four hundred thousand South Korean soldiers assisted by the American 2nd Infantry Division constituted partly by North Korean soldiers. It is estimated that one million landmines are scattered over the southern part of this long and narrow stretch of land 248km long by 4km wide. According to the South Korean civil coalition, Peace Sharing Association, it will take 489 years to clear the demilitarised zone of all the mines.

Access to the fringes of the DMZ is open to foreign tourists while remaining difficult for South Koreans and closed to North Koreans. This stretch of land, uninhabited for more than sixty years has become a natural reserve of great biodiversity that South Korea hopes to see designated as a Unesco Biosphere Reserve.



Model Village (2014)

*Video HD, colour, stereo, 16/9. Duration: 9'39; model in wood and plastic*

The eponymous 'model village' is the North Korean village of Kijong-dong built in the DMZ as a tool of propaganda. Visible but unreachable from South Korea, the village is believed to be nothing but an empty decor whose streets are daily cleaned by municipal workers. Here actual cameras move within a semblance in wood and plastic, where shadows have greater consistency than matter.

489 years (2015)

*Video HD, colour animation, stereo, 16/9. Duration: 12'*

*Video, stereoscopic 3D, 360°. Installation: chair, VR headgear and audio headphones*

In *489 years* Hayoun Kwon imagine the demilitarised zone in a long tracking shot realised by virtual cameras in a virtual environment while the voice of the ex-South Korean soldier Kim tells us of a memory of the DMZ at nightfall.

Panmunjom (2013)

*Video HD, colour animation, 16/9. Duration: 3'48*

Panmunjom is the name of the village near which the 1953 armistice was signed in a building erected for this sole purpose. Nothing remains of the village but that building which has since become the Museum of Peace of North Korea. The Joint Security Area (JSA) was established at some 500 meters from the old village and straddles the military demarcation line indicated by a concrete slab laid between barracks painted in blue. On each side of the concrete slab, North Korean and South Korean soldiers keep watch, immobile. They are not allowed to cross the concrete slab.

Untitled (2016)

*Sound piece - comptonium and perforated card*

The form of this sound piece, that was realised specifically for this exhibition, was suggested by the DMZ strip sown with landmines.

*The virtual reality apparatus takes us back to its prefiguration in the 19th century stereoscopic devices and panoramas - vast paintings or photographic montages of views affixed to a cylindrical support that surrounded the visitor - and its avatar the diorama - a system of very large painted trompe-l'oeils, animated by light effects, realised in 1882 by Charles Marie Bouton and Louis Daguerre the inventor of the daguerreotype photographic process. [...] Thus, Hayoun Kwon's work, as a phantasmagoria of a real political situation, gives us access to a dimension of the history of photography that is sometimes forgotten and that speaks of the desire to create a semblance of our world, another reality, a virtual reality.*

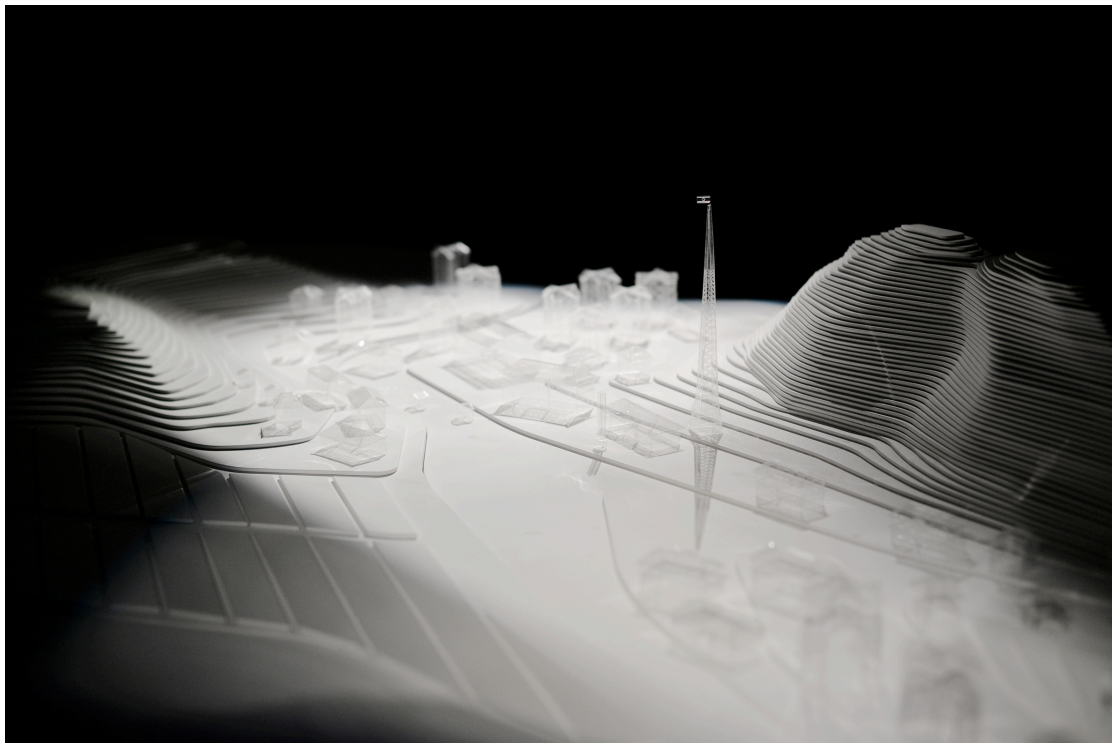
Francette Pacteau, Guest curator

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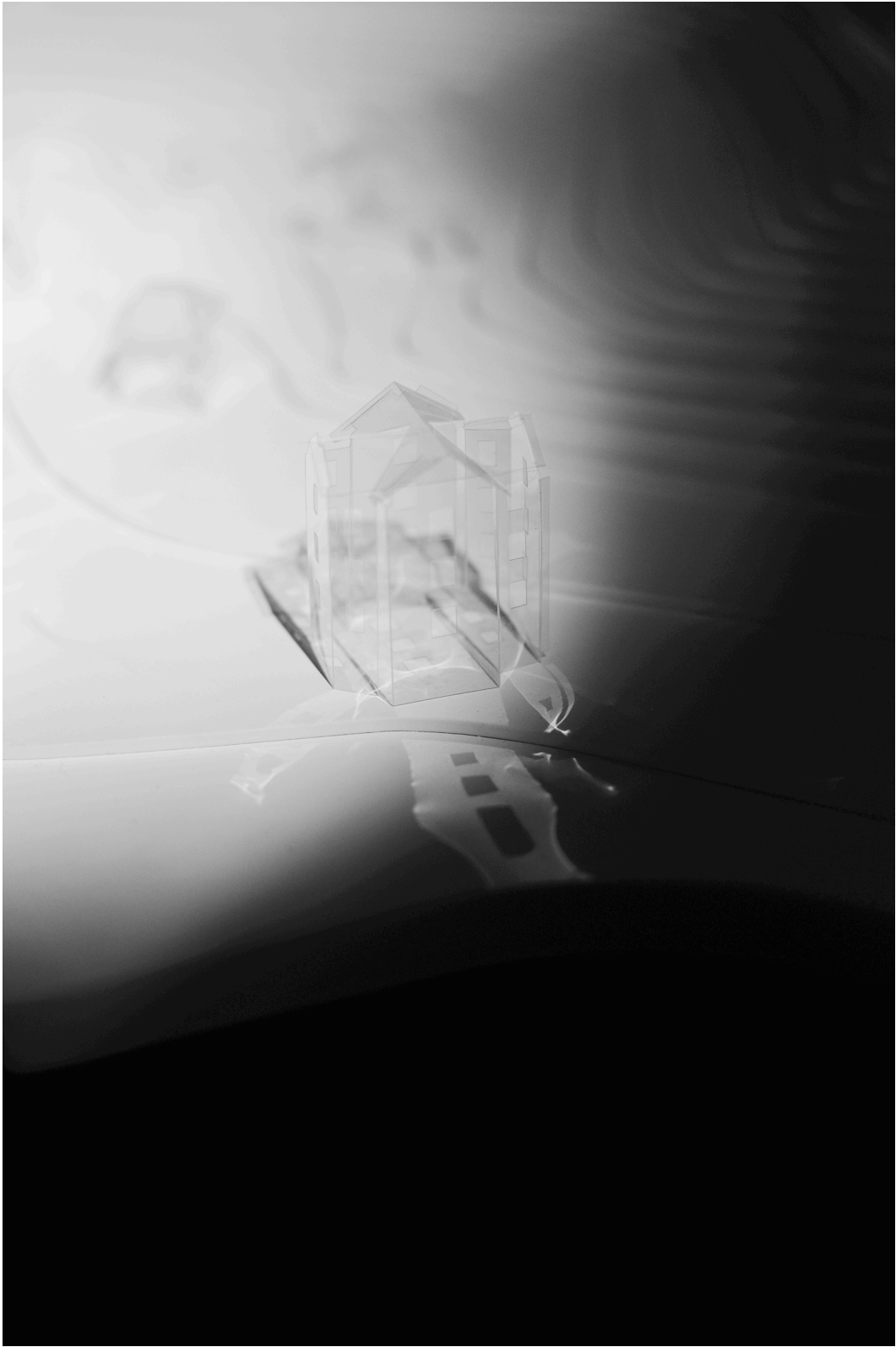
Raymond Kuzon



VILLAGE MODÈLE



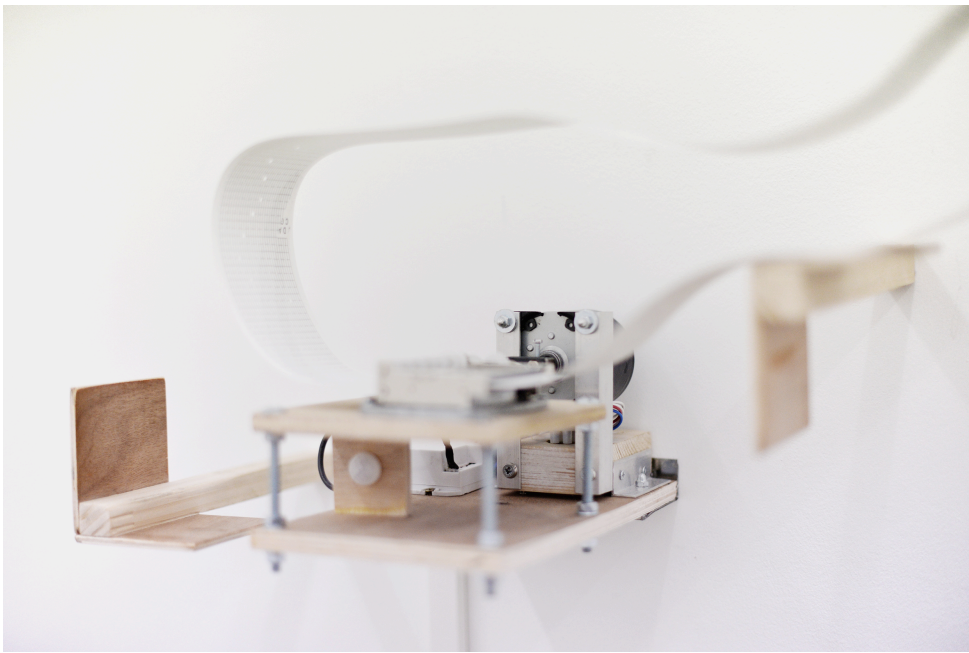
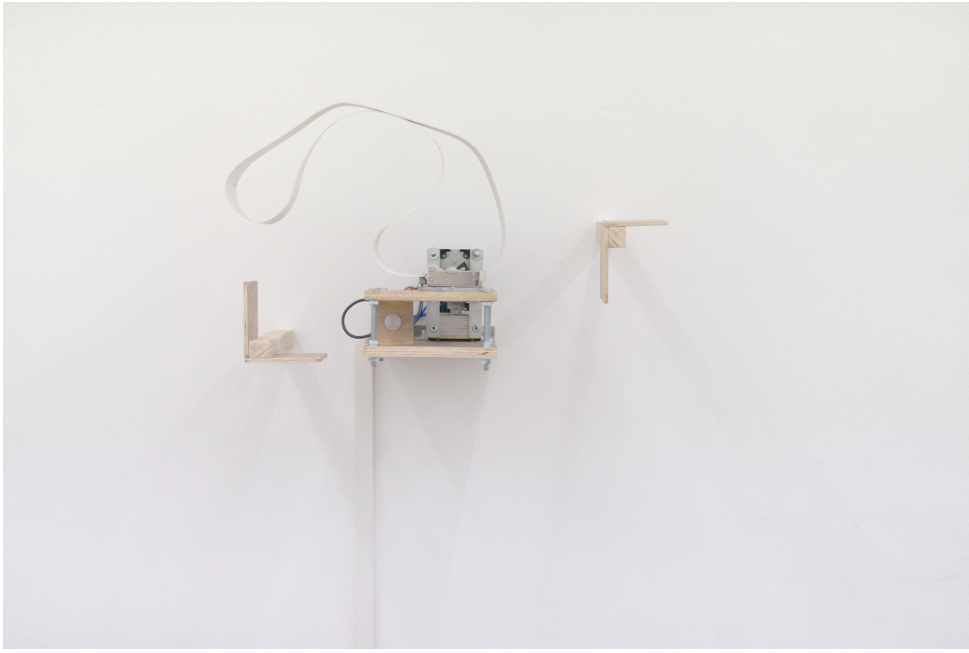




Model Village (2014)



Panmunjom (2013)

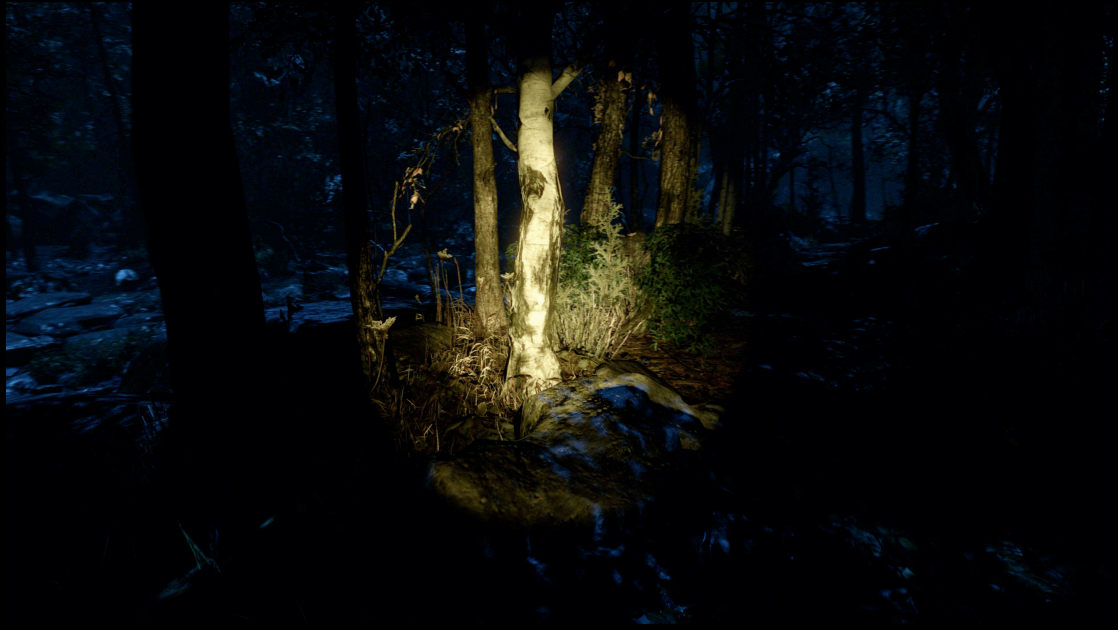


Untitled (2016)















489 years (2015)