

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 26, 2013



Encounter - Looking into Sewing, 1998–2002, cibachrome print
Courtesy of Galerie Tschudi, Zuoz, Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan and Kimsooja Studio
Photo: Lee Jong Soo

Vancouver Art Gallery presents the first retrospective exhibition of internationally acclaimed artist Kimsooja

Vancouver, BC – Opening at the Vancouver Art Gallery on October 10, 2013, ***KIMSOOJA Unfolding*** is the first retrospective exhibition to assess the thirty year career of the Korean-born, Paris- and New York-based artist, whose powerful and provocative work has earned her a prominent position as one of the most innovative artists working today. Kimsooja is currently participating for the fifth time at the 2013 Venice Biennale, officially representing South Korea.

Since the 1980s, Kimsooja has made a significant contribution to contemporary art. North American audiences were introduced to her work in the early 1990s when she began constructing *bottari*—objects wrapped in colourful Korean fabrics—during a residency at MoMA PS1 in New York. Her adaptation of this Korean tradition of using fabric to bundle and transport domestic items not only garnered the international art community's attention, but also became a formal and symbolic device that she continued to use throughout her career.

The Vancouver Art Gallery first presented Kimsooja's work in the 1997 touring exhibition *Contemporary Art in Asia: Traditions/Tensions*, and in an outdoor exhibition *CUE: Artists' Videos* in 2010. "We are thrilled to be staging the first comprehensive survey of Kimsooja's work, as this reflects the Gallery's deep commitment to exhibiting work by international artists. The questions she poses about gender, identity and our relationship to the everyday go beyond a local context and have a powerful global relevance" said director Kathleen S. Bartels.

While the scale and media of the artist's work vary widely, what remains constant is an engagement with questions of identity in the face of change and social flux. The exhibition highlights works that address notions of time, memory and displacement, and the relationship between the human body and the material world.

"This exhibition offers an unprecedented opportunity to trace the development of Kimsooja's practice." said the Gallery's Chief Curator and Associate Director Daina Augaitis. "For the first time, Kimsooja's early textile pieces from the 1980s, her *Deductive Objects*, the large site-specific installations such as *Bottari Truck*, as well as her acclaimed multi-channel video projections are presented together in this significant retrospective."

The exhibition is accompanied by a major book *KIMSOOJA Unfolding*, co-published by the Vancouver Art Gallery and Hatje Cantz (Berlin), which features over 100 images of the artist's work as well as essays by Daina Augaitis, Mary Jane Jacob, David Morgan, Selene Wendt and Suh Young-Hee.

A media preview with the artist Kimsooja and Daina Augaitis will take place on Thursday, October 10th at 9am in the Gallery. Media attending are requested to RSVP to Debra Zhou.

RELATED EVENTS

Artist's Talk: Kimsooja

Tuesday, October 8, 7pm

SFU Woodward's, World Art Centre, 149 West Hastings, 2nd Floor

Kimsooja speaks about her practice and recent work representing Korea in the current Venice Biennale. This event is co-presented with the SFU Vancity Office of Community Engagement. Free to the public.

Exhibition Tour

Thursday, October 10, 6pm

at the Vancouver Art Gallery

Artist Kimsooja and Curator Daina Augaitis tour the exhibition.

This special tour is free to attend. RSVP to vanartgallery.bc.ca/kimsooja_opening or 604.662.4747 by Friday, October 4.

Performance

Friday, November 29

at the Vancouver Art Gallery

A performance of Kimsooja's work *A Beggar Woman* will be presented as part of *FUSE*.

Free for Members or with *FUSE* admission.

Presenting Sponsor:



###

Images are available upon request.

MEDIA INFORMATION:

Debra Zhou, Communications Specialist

Direct: 604-662-4722 Mobile: 604-671-2358

dzhou@vanartgallery.bc.ca

About the Vancouver Art Gallery

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity