

Press Release

2021. 8. 19

ARKO Art Center, Art Sonje Center and Nam June Paik Art Center reveals online project *Kind Neighbors*

- Joint operation of the website for three months from August 28th
- Seek ways to coexist in an era divided by the pandemic and discrimination and hatred against minorities
- Creates an inclusive art museum environment by blurring the boundaries among the museum's neighbors



Kind Neighbors poster, 2021. Design: Studio MHTL

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Nam June Paik Art Center
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Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do, 17068 Korea

ARKO Art Center
3 Dongsung-gil, Jongno-gu,
Seoul, 03087 Korea

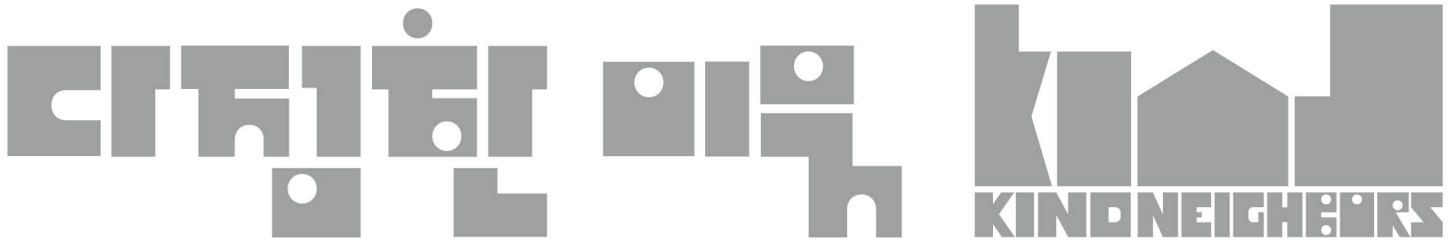
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NAM JUNE PAIK ART CENTER
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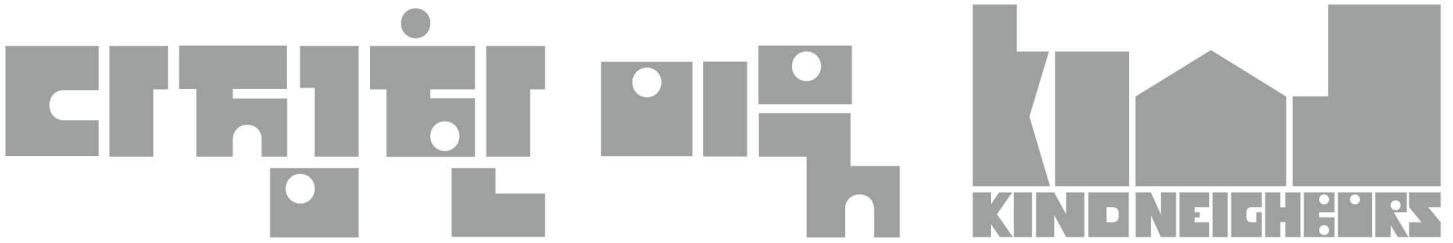
Overview

Responding to the unrelenting pandemic which has significantly restricted exhibitions and other museum activities, three art museums have come together to form *Kind Neighbors*. It is an online-based project via website (www.kindneighbors.art), opening on Saturday, August 28, 2021. This project explores and experiments together on alternative museological practices in a time of social transition. Participating museums are ARKO Art Center, Art Sonje Center and Nam June Paik Art Center (in alphabetical order), sponsored by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Established between the 1970s to the 2000s, each institution runs with different characters and contexts. Reflecting on the role of institutional museums in the midst of the social crisis and polarization caused by the pandemic, these institutions advocate the need for solidarity and communality in the public domain, and organize a series of programs such as talks, readings and performances by jointly investing their resources. This is part of the endeavors to find a way to restore the value of diversity amid the economic and social imbalances, prevailing tensions and demarcations, all exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic. For the next three months, the three art museums will become close neighbors to one another, and also invite various people from both inside and outside the art world as their new neighbors. Through the website – an online station and the commons – you are more than welcome to join us.

Telethon

To kick off *Kind Neighbors*, a telethon will be broadcasted online through the *Kind Neighbors* website at 5 pm KST on Saturday, August 28. The term “telethon” was coined with “television” and “marathon” for charity fundraising TV shows in the 1950s and 1960s. The *Kind Neighbors* telethon is a compilation of conversation, talk show, reading and performance, which were filmed individually and edited into a marathon-like 120-minute broadcast. In this telethon, the three museums are going to revise their archival materials and navigate the new meanings of living and working together by talking about their past and present as museums in art communities. Issues such as translation and communication, and the role of media technologies in the networked environment will also be discussed. For the telethon, ARKO Art Center invites artist Kyuchul Ahn and independent curator Taehyun Kwon; Art Sonje Center invites poet Eun Oh and art critic Konno Yuki; and Nam June Paik Art Center invites artist collective Bad New Days. Singer and actor Sung Woo Shin and the

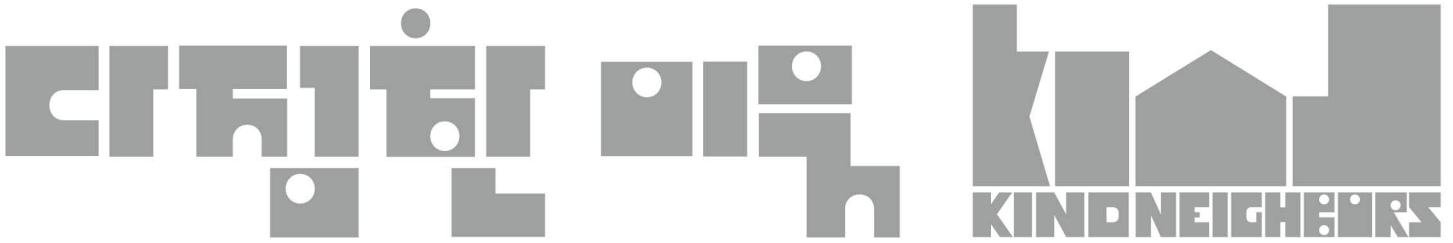
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vocalist of indie rock band SE SO NEON, Soyeon Hwang is also going to read the writings of artists Jae Choul Jeoung and Nam June Paik, and multinational alternative K-pop group Balming Tiger is going to stage a performance in these museums. For the wide accessibility of diverse audiences to the telethon, Korean and English subtitles and sign language interpretations are going to be provided.

Upcoming Programs

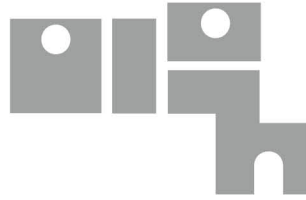
Once the telethon is broadcasted, the three museums will upload weekly to broaden the online experience: recordings of book paragraphs to be shared and suggested by each museum ("Audio Book") and written words to exchange ideas and feedback on their exhibitions and other projects ("Text Corpus"). There will also be plug-in programs that each museum runs on their ground that deal with the subject matters of *Kind Neighbors*. This is an experimentation to share knowledge and resources through a network. Finally, to conclude the three-month collaboration, there will be an online party where curators from the three institutions and all the participants in *Kind Neighbors* get together. We would like to take this opportunity to have a practical discussion about the museum's attempts and achievements alongside the changes in the media conditions of contemporary art. Inviting different people online and offline as new neighbors to the open dialogue of the three museums, we hope that, in a society which is currently polarized due to pandemic, the project *Kind Neighbors* will propose a model of the open museum where discussions on sympathy and solidarity are encouraged.



Appendix 1. Programs

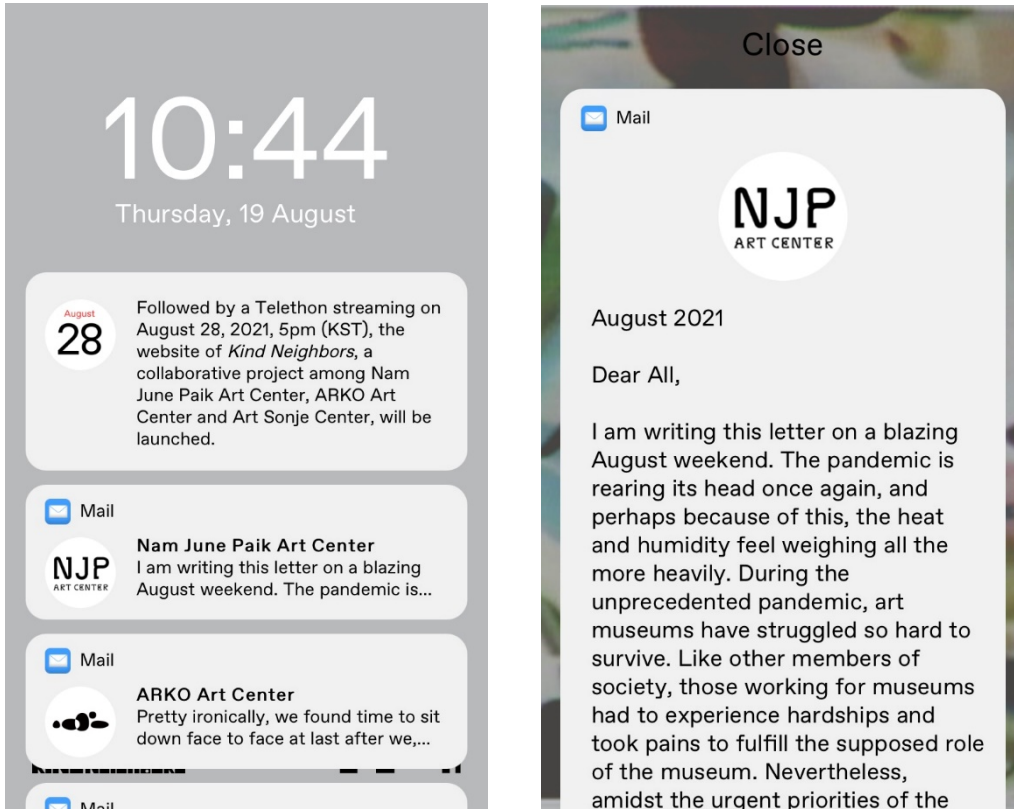
| Title | Date | Details |
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| Telethon | Aug 28, Saturday 5 pm www.kindneighbors.art broadcast and live chats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ARKO Art Center: <i>Bansanghoe – Kind Neighborhood Meeting</i> (Panel: Kyuchul Ahn, Taehyun Kwon) · Art Sonje Center: <i>Neighbors, Borders and Languages</i> (Panel: Eun Oh, Konno Yuki) · Nam June Paik Art Center: <i>Chatshow – A Cultural History of Distortion</i> (Panel: Bad New Days) · Readings: Sung Woo Shin, So Yoon Hwang · Performances: Balming Tiger |
| Audio Book | For the duration of <i>Kind Neighbors</i> | Six recordings of book paragraphs to be shared by the museums |
| Text Corpus | For the duration of <i>Kind Neighbors</i> | Written words to exchange ideas and feedback on their exhibitions and other projects |
| Roundtable | Nov 27, Saturday 5 pm Zoom meeting | An online party where all the curators and participants in <i>Kind Neighbors</i> get together |
| Plug-ins | | |
| Plug-in #1: ARKO Art Center Venice Biennale Architecture, Korean Pavilion, Future School Dialogue | Sept 9, Thursday Youtube Video | An online talk that provides an opportunity for exploratory and process-oriented discussions on various themes of the Korean Pavilion's <i>Future School</i> in the Venice Biennale Architecture Panel: Jade Keunhye Lim (General Director, ARKO Art Center), Seong Eun Kim (Director, Nam June Paik Art Center), Haeju Kim (Deputy Director, Art Sonje Center), Sungwon Lee (CEO, G-School), Yoonmee Ohm (CEO, C-Program) |

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| <p>Plug-in #2: Nam June Paik Art Center</p> <p>Okkyung Lee, ÷ / + (2021), <i>The Swan: Replay in Polyester</i> (2013)</p> | <p>Sept 23, Thursday Videos</p> | <p>A curatorial commentary on how the art museum embraces cross-disciplinary forms of art and how the sensorial and emotional relationships with the audience have changed before and after the pandemic, through videos of past and present performances by improvisational cellist Okkyung Lee in collaboration with Nam June Paik Art Center</p> |
| <p>Plug-in #3: Nam June Paik Art Center</p> <p><i>Open Bookmark, Open Booktalk</i></p> | <p>Oct 7, Thursday Zoom meeting</p> | <p>An online book club moderated by artist SeungBum Kim in conjunction with the exhibition <i>Open Codes. Networked Commons</i>, where participants will read the book <i>Mindstorms</i> together and talk about machine learning, artificial intelligence, and coding as a creative tool open to all</p> |
| <p>Plug-in #3.5: ARKO Art Center</p> <p>Digital publication <i>Monthly In-Mi-Gong</i></p> | <p>Oct 14, Thursday</p> | <p>Digital publications on the research topic of the <i>Monthly In-Mi-Gong</i> held in Insa Art Space from July to September, exploring the concepts of “localities,” moving and migration in relation to COVID-19, and those alienated from the boundaries between regions and between classes</p> |
| <p>Plug-in #4: Art Sonje Center</p> <p>Conversations with Kunstinstituut Melly</p> | <p>Oct 21, Thursday Zoom meeting</p> | <p>An online talk in which curators Vivian Zihel and Jessy Koeiman from Kunstinstituut Melly, based in Rotterdam, share their experience of the Name Change Initiative in 2020 that reflected the voices of different neighbors, and discuss new ways and attitudes to run an art institution</p> |
| <p>Plug-in #5: Art Sonje Center</p> <p>Artist commission: Kyungkyu Cho</p> | <p>Nov 4, Thursday</p> | <p>A new commission of the work by the artist Kyungkyu Cho exploring the scope of neighborhood, which will be on show online</p> |

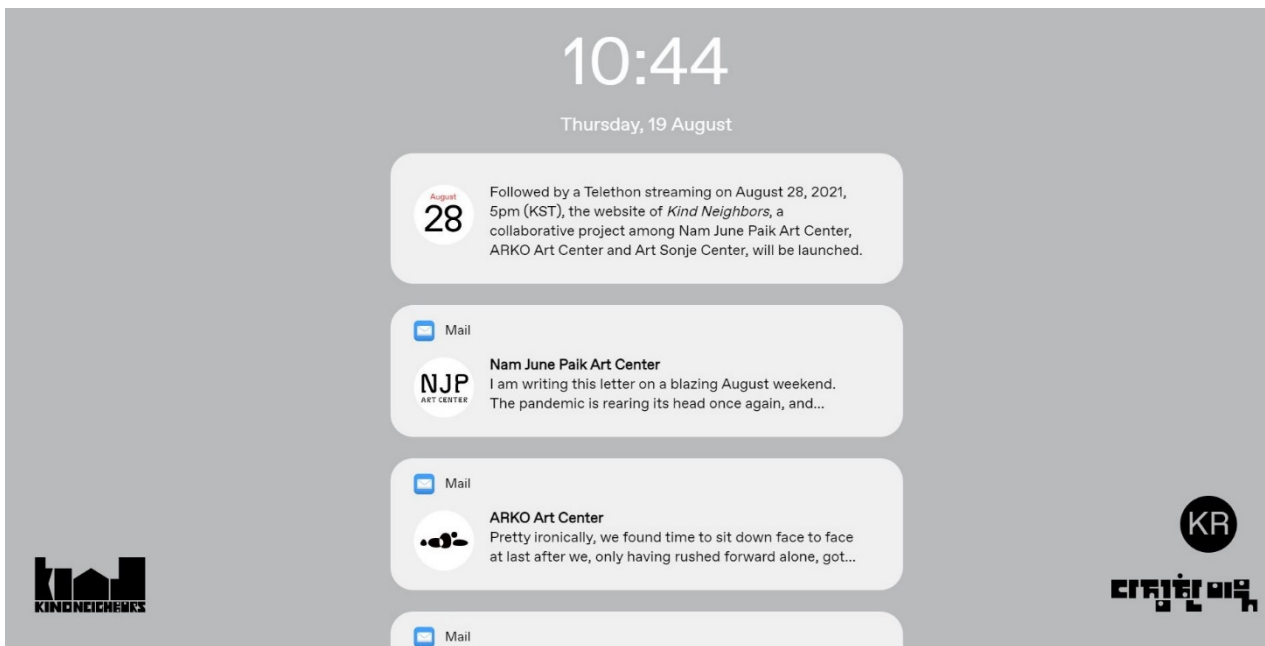


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| <p>Plug-in #6: ARKO Art Center</p> <p>Group Exhibition <i>Nothing Makes Itself</i></p> | <p>Nov 18, Thursday, video</p> | <p>A video documentation about the audience-participatory performance of Collective Doingle focused on climate justice, which combines the artist's role in the climate change issues with the daily life of the audience in a form of performance and workshop. It will aim to explore the method of coexistence among humans, technology and environment</p> |
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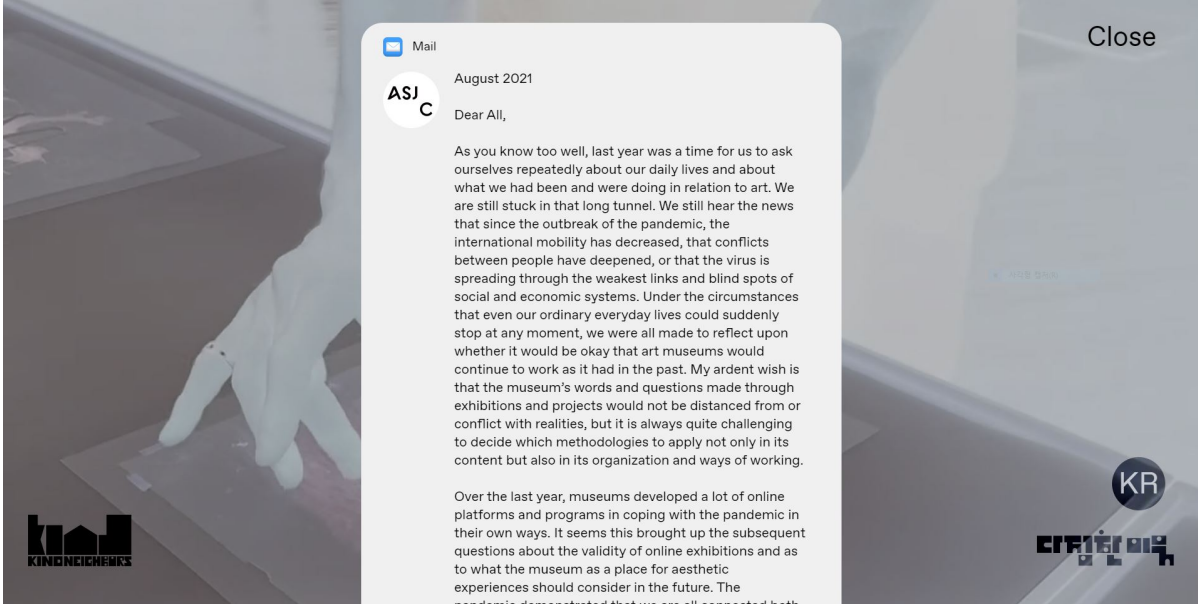
Appendix 2: Images



Kind Neighbors website, mobile screen capture.



Kind Neighbors website, PC screen capture.



Kind Neighbors website, PC screen capture.



Telethon: Kind Neighbors, still image. (Panels: Kyuchul Ahn, Taehyun Kwon)



Telethon: Kind Neighbors, still image. (Reading: Sung Woo Shin)



Telethon: Kind Neighbors, still image. (Panels: Eun Oh, Konno Yuki)

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KIND NEIGHBORS



Telethon: Kind Neighbors, still image. (Performance: Balming Tiger)



Telethon: Kind Neighbors, still image. (Reading: Soyeon Hwang)

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 Kind Neighbors



Telethon: Kind Neighbors, still image. (Panel: Bad New Days)

Appendix 3. Introduction of the Institutions

| Nam June Paik Art Center (est. 2008) | |
|--|---|
|   <p>NAM JUNE PAIK ART CENTER 백남준아트센터</p> | <p>In 2001, Nam June Paik and Gyeonggi Province began to discuss the establishment of his museum, and affiliated to Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation, Nam June Paik Art Center opened in 2008. As christened by the artist himself, Nam June Paik Art Center aims to be a museum where Paik lives on, not just to remain a memorial for the artist, but to seek an active undertaking to increase the awareness of Paik's work and life. As a public museum specializing in media art, it also devotes itself to cultivating artistic and scholarly experiments in creative and critical ways. It runs exhibitions on Paik and contemporary media art, international symposiums and publications, education and public programs, collection acquisition, the world's only Paik video archive, and a wide spectrum of international projects.</p> |
| ARKO Art Center (est.1974) | |
|   <p>아르코미술관</p> | <p>ARKO Art Center was established in 1974 as a public exhibition space affiliated to Arts Council Korea. It was relocated in 1979 to the current building designed by architect Sookeun Kim, in Marronnier Park. Under the new operational strategies characterized by usefulness, inclusion, collaboration, and sharing, it promotes its function as a platform in which research, creation, exhibition and exchange circulate in a virtuous cycle. ARKO Art Center has organized special exhibitions dealing with social agendas and organized programs for the production and circulation of art discourses. Also, it runs Insa Art Space, which opened in 2000 and has established itself as an alternative public institution. It presents a variety of programs to support promising artists, curators, and multidisciplinary artistic activities.</p> |




Art Sonje Center (est. 1998)



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Art Sonje Center is a private art museum intended as a space for art as a means of contemplating our lives in the contemporary era & sharing prospects and visions for a better way of life. Established in 1998, the museum has organized exhibitions, screenings, performances and various education programs to contribute to the advancement of contemporary art and the sharing of its language with the public. It pursues an advancing way of curating that proposes a new form of exhibition by means of collaboration with different fields such as music, literature, architecture, dance, and fashion. It also supports artists whose works express the voices of our time, and pays attention to different contemporary issues. In addition, Art Sonje Center internationally presents how Korea's history, society and philosophy are represented in artistic languages, and creates an opportunity to contemplate the common problems of the contemporary world.

Appendix 4. Participants (in the order of appearance)

| Participant | Biography |
|---|---|
|  <p data-bbox="252 898 529 965">Kyuchul Ahn ARKO Art Center panel</p> | <p data-bbox="603 562 1390 898">Artist. Since the mid-1980s, Ahn has pursued alternative possibilities for contemporary art, reflecting profoundly on art and life. In 2014, he took part in the 40th anniversary exhibition of ARKO Art Center as a writer with the title "Looking Back on the 40 Years of ARKO Art Center." In addition to his works shown at leading art institutions home and abroad, he has contributed in expanding the boundaries of contemporary art through art education and writings.</p> |
|  <p data-bbox="252 1384 529 1451">Taehyun Kwon ARKO Art Center panel</p> | <p data-bbox="603 1025 1390 1391">Independent curator and writer of various art projects. He continues to have research interest in all things related to political issues with sensory experience. He has curated online exhibition <i>IGMO</i> (https://igmo.app, 2021) which deals with mobility issues in critical perspective as well as <i>Permanent Collection</i> (MMCA, 2021), <i>Collective Collective Collection</i> (SeMA, 2020) and related exhibition programs. Kwon used to work as a journalist for the magazine <i>Misulsegye</i> and a current member of the image research group "Banzzak."</p> |
|  <p data-bbox="252 1850 529 1917">Eun Oh Art Sonje Center panel</p> | <p data-bbox="603 1552 1390 1827">Poet. He published his first poem in 2002, in the monthly magazine <i>Korean Modern Poetry</i>. His poetry collections include <i>I Had a Name</i> (2018), <i>The Left Hand's Heartbreak</i> (2018), <i>From Existence to Existence</i> (2016), <i>We Love the Mood</i> (2013), and <i>The Pigs of Hotel Tassel</i> (2009). Other publications include a book on colors and paintings entitled <i>You, Me and Yellow</i> (2012), and <i>A Comforting Pat</i> (2020), an essay of self-reflection.</p> |



Konno Yuki
Art Sonje Center panel

Art critic. He writes about exhibitions held in both Japan and Seoul, and travels regularly between the two countries. Over the past year, He looked back at the exhibitions held in Seoul through the Chosun News Agency's Monthly News Project. He won second place in the critical writing contest GRAVITY EFFECT 2019.



Bad New Days
Nam June Paik Art Center panel

Artist collective. The name was inspired by the phrase "Don't start with the good old days, but the bad new ones." Its members, who are artists, critics and curators, work together on various projects. They explore political and social issues such as freight workers' unions and ways of revolution, and demonstrate artistic methodologies that could bring about real changes to society. Their works and performances were shown in *Tactics* (Nam June Paik Art Center, 2021) and *Collecting for All* (SeMA, 2020).



Soyoon Hwang
Reading

Musician, vocalist and guitarist of the band SE SO NEON. She is also active in pursuing her solo project 'So!YoON!' and today receives much accolades and attention in both the local and global arenas.



Sung Woo Shin
Reading

Singer, actor, sculptor, director, and professor in musical theater at Baekseok University. He majored in sculpture at Chung-Ang University's art department and graduate school, and is a close friend of the late artist Jae Choul Jeung. He is interested in evoking beauty in life with his various artistic activities.



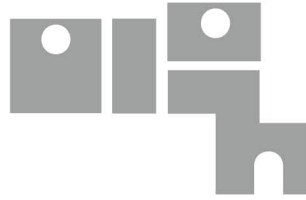
Balming Tiger
Musical Performance

"Multinational alternative K-pop" group, also working as a music label and collective. They are active not only in Korea, but also in Asia and in the international scene. Balming Tiger consists primarily of producer San Yawn and rapper Omega Sapien, DJ/A&R Abyss, filmmaker jan'qui, singer-songwriter sogumm and Wonjin, beat-maker Unsinkable, rapper Mudd the student, and editor Henson. They are free to collaborate with creators from various fields.



Studio MHTL
Graphic Design

Graphic design studio run by designers Mat-kkal and Park Lucky. They seek to interact with society and spread creative energy in the mediation of their designs. Positioning the designs with their own visual filters among people naturally, they consider it a joyful circulation of design to create new narratives. They also work on graphic design for corporate business branding and for exhibitions and cultural and artistic events.



sugarsaltpepper

sugarsaltpepper
Telethon Production

sugarsaltpepper is a video production company formed in 2013 by artists, filmmakers and designers. They produce different videos based on cultural sectors.

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GOOGLE DRIVE LINK:

<https://bit.ly/3xRyAQU>