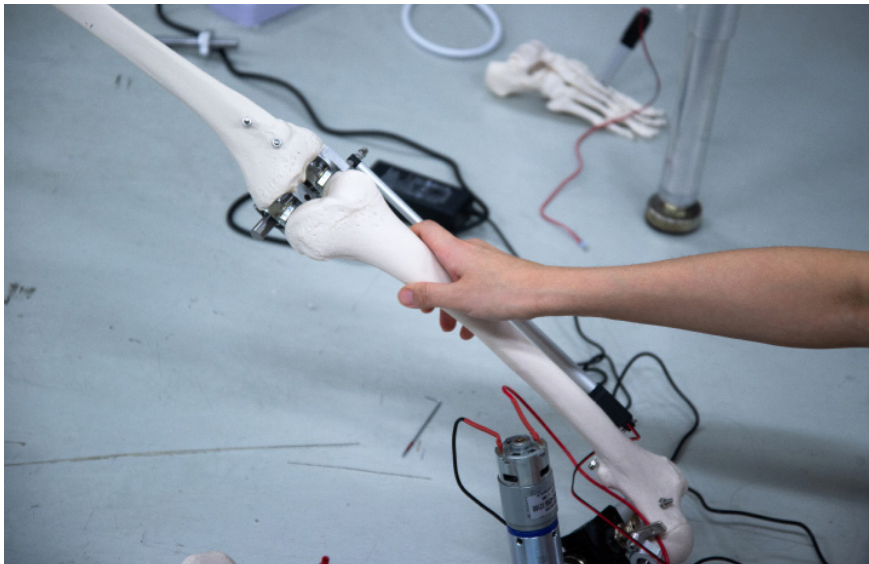


GEUMHYUNG JEONG: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A solo exhibition at ICA, London
25 September – 15 December 2024

Preview: Tuesday, 24 September



Geumhyung Jeong, *Work in progress*, 2023, Photo by Kanghyuk Lee

This autumn, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (ICA) presents, *Under Construction*, a solo exhibition by Geumhyung Jeong (b. 1980, Seoul) featuring a newly commissioned installation of sculpture and video, and series of live performances. Working from her background in choreography and a studied interest in the role of objects and technology in our lives, Jeong uses her body and animatronic figures built from DIY parts to parse the uncanny relationships between people and machines. In her past work, Jeong has animated self-constructed remote-controlled robots using mechanical and tech hardware tools and spare mannequin parts and medical dummies. With this new exhibition in the ICA's lower galleries, Jeong expands her ongoing project, *Under Construction*, incorporating complete human skeleton models as a central component of the work.

Left in various gestures and states of completion, Jeong's mechanical bodies occupy the centre of the gallery floor. Their bones resemble the order of those in a human skeleton, yet they are everywhere appended, flayed and sutured by machine parts. *Under Construction* will explore the link between humans and machines through sculptures, in-process constructions, in person performances and video installation that both document actions between Jeong and the skeleton-machines, and the artist's tender creation and maintenance of the work. As in the performances, the sculptures in the videos – more co-performers than objects – act in a clumsy, unreliable manner. Jeong explores with equal attention the bodies' successes and

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

failures: their halting, faltering actions as studied as those they manage with graceful fluidity. Their movements solicit a range of affinities in the viewer, from appeal to horror. In the gallery when they are still, as they primarily are, they exude an uncanny frisson of life.

Jeong's installation offers a proposal for the active life of sculpture in a public institution. The artist will perform in-person with her figural machines multiple times during the run of the exhibition, reimagining and shifting the installation. Jeong's work shares a valuable history with performative and interactive sculpture since the 1960s, while being firmly rooted in the present and a specific context of technology in late-stage capitalism, which the artist approaches from the perspective afforded by an adolescence spent in Seoul during the steep rise in consumerism in South Korea. This tender yet uncomfortable work represents a nuanced investigation of global techno-capitalism, addressing human relationships with our technological counterparts through care and mutual exchange. Jeong addresses this fundamental component of our appended human society in a way only sculpture can – by addressing the physical relationships in space that underline our connection to objects as active agents.

Andrea Nitsche-Krupp, ICA Exhibitions Curator, says:

Working with Geumhyung Jeong to realise her new commission for the ICA London has been enlivening, her work challenges us as an institution, and as viewers, in the best ways. Jeong is one of the most compelling and original exponents of performative installation and we're delighted to be able to share her work with our audiences. And personally, it has been an honour to witness her artistic process unfolding these many months.

Bengi Ünsal, ICA Director, says:

We are thrilled to support Geumhyung Jeong at this pivotal moment in her career as she continues to push the boundaries of her practice by blending continually evolving sculpture, choreography and performance. In bringing her work to an international audience in London, the ICA reaffirms its commitment to championing interdisciplinary artists. Jeong's exploration of the relationship between humans and machines offers us profound insights into what it means to live in our technological age, and we are proud to present her groundbreaking work in this solo exhibition.

GEUMHYUNG JEONG BIO

Geumhyung Jeong (b. 1980 in Seoul, South Korea) lives and works in Seoul. Jeong has participated in performing arts festivals internationally and had solo exhibitions in international contemporary art institutions including: *Upgrade in Progress*, FMAV Fondazione Modena Arti Visive, Modena (2020); *Homemade RC*

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Toy, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (2019); *Private Collection: Unperformed Objects*, Delfina Foundation, London (2017); *Tate Live: Geumhyung Jeong, Tate Modern*, London (2017); *Private Collection, Atelier Hermès*, Seoul (2016).

She has also participated in numerous group exhibitions including: *The Milk of Dreams*, *The 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia*, Venice (2022); Copenhagen – *Red Light Green Light (In the Realm of the Senses)*, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2022); *Immortality, The 5th Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art*, Ekaterinburg (2019); *APT9 The 9th Asia Pacific Triennial*, Brisbane (2018); *ANTI, AB6 The 6th Athens Biennale*, Athens (2018); *The Public Body 02*, Artspace, Sydney (2017); *The Promise of Total Automation*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2016); *Surround Audience: New Museum Triennial 2015*, New Museum, New York (2015); *The Beast and the Sovereign*, MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Barcelona (2015); *East Asia Feminism: FANTasia*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul (2015); *Gesture*, WKV Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart (2014); *Burning Down the House*, *The 10th Gwangju Biennale*, Gwangju (2014).

In 2016 Jeong was the winner of the Hermès Foundation Missulsang Award and in 2014 of Zürcher Theater Spektakel Kantonalbank Acknowledgment Prize. In 2009 she won the Excellence Award for Alternative Vision at the Seoul New Media Art Festival and in 2007 Dokkebi Award at the Chuncheon International Mime Festival.

Exhibition supported by:

The Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism - Korean Arts Management Services, and the Henry Moore Foundation.



See below Exhibition Events Programme for performances dates and times.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Exhibition Events Programme:

Wednesday, 2 October, 6:30pm – Film Screening: Frankenstein

Selected by Geumhyung Jeong in conjunction with her exhibition, this iconic 1931 horror film directed by James Whale follows scientist Dr. Henry Frankenstein as he attempts to create life by assembling body parts from the dead.

Tuesday, 8 October, 7pm – Live Performance

An essential component of the artist's ongoing project, this is the first event in a series of live performances in which Jeong acts as operator and co-performer with her mechanical bodies.

Wednesday, 9 October, 7pm – Live Performance

In the second performance in the series, Jeong manipulates and responds to the machine bodies through a conversation of movements initiated by remote control, physical touch, and mechanised gestures.

Thursday, 24 October, 6:30pm – Curator-led Exhibition Tour

A behind the scenes tour of the exhibition with curator Andrea Nitsche-Krupp.

Wednesday, 6 November, 6:30pm – Film Screening: Dr. Giggles

Selected by the artist in conjunction with her exhibition, this 1992 American slasher film follows a self-declared doctor on a medical pun-filled killing spree.

Wednesday, 13 November, 7pm – Live Performance

Jeong returns to the ICA to continue her ongoing construction, maintenance and choreography with her mechanical figures. Audiences are invited to witness this intimate dialogue live as Jeong operates and performs with the bodies.

Friday, 15 November, 7pm – Performative Lecture

Part artist talk, part performance, Jeong will walk audiences through her practice leading up to the current work via lecture, images, video, and movement demonstrations.

Wednesday, 20 November, 6:30pm – Film Screening: Love Object

Selected by the artist in conjunction with her exhibition, this 2003 horror film explores animate and inanimate objectification through a relationship with a jealous sex doll.

Sunday, 1 December, 2:00pm – Workshop: Speakers Corner Quartet

This interactive session in the studio explores the intersection of robotics and music with recent ICA artists-in-residence, Speakers Corner Quartet.

Saturday, 7 December, 6:30 pm – Film Screening: Three Films by Geumhyung Jeong

The artist has selected three examples of her past work for this special screening: Munbangu (stationery), 2011, RECORD STOP PLAY, 2011 and Delivery Service, 2020.

Date to be announced

Panel Discussion: Machine Futurisms

A panel discussion that unpacks the artist's exploration of human-machine interaction and the relationships between objects and performance, the animate and inanimate.

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Exhibition opening times and tickets:

£6 full price

Monday: closed

Tue, Wed, Thu: 4pm – 9pm

Fri, Sat, Sun: 12pm – 9pm

Over the following dates, we will be open from 12pm:

Tuesday 8 October 2024

Wednesday 9 October 2024

Thursday 10 October 2024

Monday 14 October 2024

Tuesday 15 October 2024

Wednesday 16 October 2024

Thursday 17 October 2024

Please visit www.ica.art to book tickets and find out more information on events including arranging educational and youth tours.

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The Institute of Contemporary Arts

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) is London's leading space for contemporary culture. We commission, produce and present new work in film, music, performance and the visual arts by today's most progressive artists. In our landmark home on The Mall in central London, we invite artists and audiences to interrogate what it means to live in our world today, with a genre-fluid programme that challenges the past, questions the present and confronts the future. The cross-disciplinary programme encourages these art forms and others to pollinate in new combinations and collaborations. We stage club nights and film festivals, gigs and exhibitions, talks and digital art—with interplay and interaction at the core of all we do. Our history of presenting and promoting visionary new art is unrivalled in London: from Kenneth Anger to Kathy Acker, Kano to Klein, Jackson Pollock to Jean-Michel Basquiat, Gay Sweatshop to Forensic Architecture, Pop Art to queer techno. Today, as ever, our inclusive programme reflects and represents who we are as a disparate and diverse collection of cultures and identities.

Over 75 years after a group of artists and poets founded the ICA as an alternative to the mainstream, we are committed more than ever to pave the way for the next generation and to platform creative voices. The ICA continues to celebrate risk and champion innovation, and experimentation across the arts – a playground and a home for today's most vital artists.

The ICA is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organization and supported by the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund.

Access

If you have an access requirement that we can assist you with, please contact us in advance of your visit for more information at access@ica.art and we will make our best endeavours to help you. Full venue accessibility information can be found here, and you can download an accessibility map of the venue at www.ica.art/media/01795.pdf

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