

The Nature with Action / A performance at “Das Dritte Land”

## ***Duet in No-man’s-land***

2019

Sound installation by Link Player with portable speakers x8 / dimensions variable

The voices in Japanese, Korean, and German

Date: 13 – 14 September 2019 / 4pm – 9pm

Venue: Das Dritte Land, Matthäikirchplatz, 10785 Berlin - Kulturforum

Supported by Keum Art Projects

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oa2eNtajl>

Based on my unique method, I create new onomatopoeia in collaboration with people who speak different languages, often resulting in sound installations, which form a significant part of my work. My artistic practice embraces various approaches, including a method I have developed that transforms sounds into language, using voices and texts that consist of onomatopoeia. The term ‘onomatopoeia’ refers to words that mimic sound. This term comes from the Greek language, and its origin means to ‘create a language.’

The sound installation is shown in “Das Dritte Land” \* is composed of voices of people in Japan and Korea that mimic birds, frogs, and insects found in both countries. Will mutual influences give rise to similar vocal expressions in the neighboring countries when the song of the same bird is mimicked? Or is this a chance to discover the diverse range of onomatopoeias due to differences in culture and custom and the existence of dialects?

I regard “Das Dritte Land” as a border zone dominated by nature and a no-man’s-land similar to the strip between the boundaries of the Berlin Wall when the East and West were divided. Borders are not only boundaries that divide two places but are also gaps that each party can share. By creating a landscape of mingling sounds that mimics nature by various voices from two countries—Japan and Korea—in “Das Dritte Land,” we imagine a place where both countries, confronted by social challenges, exist harmoniously and jointly share its diversity.

※“Das Dritte Land” ; Inspired by landscape painting during the Joseon dynasty, two artists Seok Hyun Han and Seng Hwoe Kim created an imaginary, utopian landscape in their Das Dritte Land,(which means “the third land”) in which nature seems to have dissolved the ideological border. Their artist garden seeks to renew the discourse on borders and utopias, nature and politics, as well as the experiences of borders in Germany and Europe, in Korea and the world. “Das Dritte Land” is located on Berlin’s Matthäikirchplatz, reflecting the eventful history of the divided Berlin during the Cold War.

私は今まで、異なる言語を話す人たちと共同して新しいオノマトペ（擬音語）を創作してきました。オノマトペを表す声や文字を利用して音を言語化する方法は、私の主な作品制作の手法の一つです。音を模倣した言葉「オノマトペ」、その語源はギリシャ語で「言葉を創造する」という意味です。独自の手法を介して生まれたオノマトペを使ったサウンドインスタレーションは、私の代表作の作品の一つです。

"Das Dritte Land"で発表するサウンドインスタレーションは、日本と韓国の人々が両国の土地に生息する鳥や虫の鳴き声を模倣した声で構成しています。もしも同じ鳥の鳴き声を真似た場合、隣国である私たちには、相互に影響を受け類似した表現があるのでしょうか。また、文化や慣習の違い、方言による多種多様なオノマトペを知る機会があるのでしょうか。

"Das Dritte Land"は、東西分裂した当時のベルリンの壁の境界内のように、自然が支配する誰にも所有されていない境界域と私は位置付けています。境界は二つの場所を区切る境目でもありますが、お互いが共有できる隙間でもあります。日本と韓国、両国の様々な声が交じり合う自然を模倣した音の風景を"Das Dritte Land"に作り出すことで、社会問題を抱えた両国が良好的に共存しあい、多様性を共有しあう場所を想像します。