

Arario Gallery Seoul, WON Seoung Won's Solo Exhibition***The Inaudible Audible***

- Solo exhibition by WON Seoung Won, an artist who collages captured realities into imagined landscapes
- Replacing trees with people of society to visualize the various forms of relationships in life as well as the people and individuals living in them



WON Seoung Won, *Within the Reams of Possibilities*, 2021, C-print, 172 x 287 cm

Title	The Inaudible Audible
Date	5 October – 13 November 2021
Location	ARARIO GALLERY SEOUL (84, Bukchon-ro 5-gil, Jongro-gu, Seoul, Korea)
Exhibited Works	17 Photographs, 18 Drawings
Opening Time	TUE – SAT, 11:00 – 18:00 (Closed on Sundays and Mondays)

Arario Gallery is pleased to present *The Inaudible Audible*, a solo exhibition by WON Seoung Won (b. 1972), an artist who builds fantastical narratives through imagined landscapes. While the artist's previous exhibition in 2017 unraveled personal musings on sought-after professions, this exhibition—comprised of new works, which include 17 photographs and 18 drawings—visualizes the various types of relationships formed between people who live within them through the personification of trees.

WON Seoung Won is a natural born storyteller—the beauty of her works is found at the point where the artist's imagination comes into contact with the material that realizes it. Neither the fictional stories imagined by the artist nor her unique choice and use of photo-collage can fully convey WON's oeuvre. Instead, in order to step into her artistic world, one must understand how the fictional and the real come across, and how the artist's work process and methodology, and her narrative construction within the works are parallel in these two worlds.

WON's photographic works strictly start from reality. Based on the artist's close observations of people and stories that surround her, which are captured in photographs, she builds an imaginative world through the medium of photo-collage. In other words, WON's works, which initially capture the rawness of reality, are founded on the tradition of photography as a medium. Thousands of these photographs are copied, cropped, and pasted through Photoshop to become realized as one fictional image. Just as WON, as a storyteller, interweaves smaller stories of and from reality into a bigger narrative, the artist ultimately completes a broader "picture" from smaller photographic fragments; all becoming parts of a whole that is the artist's imagined world. Therefore, one must look at both sides simultaneously—the fictional and the real—through the narrative and the methodology. Furthermore, by introducing drawings in the exhibition, WON wittily juxtaposes two media that are opposite in nature: photography and drawing.

The narrative, told by the artist in *The Inaudible Audible*, is about various forms of relationships as well as the people and individuals living in them. In its essence lies the story of insiders and outsiders, who are naturally defined by society. These relationships are built on the artist's innermost desires and perspective on what may have been or could have been achieved. The trees in her works replace humans as a symbol that remains immobile, adapting to the surrounding environment once rooted down. Each canvas, at first glance, seems to be filled with trees; but in fact, each is a result of tightly arranged metaphors and symbols of the imagined tendency of individuals. Despite the strictly personal nature of the works, which reflect WON's tenacious observations, the viewers may detect a sense of empathy. At the same time, since

relationships in life are made up of audible yet inaudible points, these works ultimately confront the viewers with their own personal stories that are never to be shared with others—*les autres*.

WON Seoung Won received M.F.A. from Kunstakademie Dusseldorf in 2002 and Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln in 2005. WON held solo exhibitions at Arario Gallery (Korea) in 2017, Podbielsky Contemporary (Germany) in 2014, Alternative Space LOOP (Korea) in 2008, and participated in numerous group exhibitions at Seoul National University Museum of Art (Korea), Gyeongnam Art Museum (Korea) in 2021, Gwangju Museum of Art (Korea), National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Korea) in 2020, Museum SAN (Korea) in 2019, Total Museum of Art (Korea) in 2018, Arario Gallery (China) and Zacheta Project Room (Poland) in 2017, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Korea) and Mori Art Museum (Japan) in 2014, MoCA Shanghai (China) and Liverpool Biennial 2012 (UK) in 2012, Mica Moca Project (Berlin, Germany) in 2011, and Museum of Fine Art Houston (US) in 2009. Her works are collected at Osthaus Museum (Germany), Santa Barbara Museum of Art (US), Kunsthaus Lempertz (Germany), Museum of Photography (Korea), Seoul Museum of Art (Korea), Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art (Korea), Goeun Art Foundation (Korea) and Arario Museum (Korea).

[Inquiries]

RHEE Sangmi M. 010 8970 8415 / E. sangmi.rhee@arariogallery.com

Dir. KANG Sojung M. 010 9256 1491 / E. sojung.kang@arariogallery.com



WON Seoung Won, *Enduring Elegance*, 2021, C-print, 222 x 178 cm



WON Seoung Won, *Nurtured Childhood*, 2021, C-print, 120 x 200 cm



WON Seung Won, *Ordinary Network*, 2021, C-print, 172 x 287 cm