

n.b.k.

Ausstellungen — Diskurs — Publikationsreihe —
Artothek — Video-Forum — Residency-Programm

www.nbk.org

Press release

Berlin, November 16, 2022

n.b.k. Showroom

YOUNG-HAE CHANG HEAVY INDUSTRIES. *PLEASE MISTAKE ME FOR NOBODY*

Opening: Friday, December 16, 2022, 7 pm

December 17, 2022 – February 5, 2023*

Tuesday–Friday 12–6 pm / Thursday 12–8 pm*

* On December 17 and 18, 2022, and February 4 and 5, 2023, the exhibition will be open from 12–6 pm.
The exhibition will be closed from December 24, 2022 to January 1, 2023.

Press preview on Friday, December 16, 5 pm, with the curator

For interview opportunities with the artists starting December 12, please contact Michaela Richter by phone: (030) 280 70 20 or by email: presse@nbk.org.

Curator: Arkadij Koscheew

Neuer Berliner Kunstverein presents the first institutional solo exhibition in Germany of the Net Art pioneers YOUNG-HAE CHANG HEAVY INDUSTRIES, an art duo consisting of Young-Hae Chang and Marc Voge. The exhibition *PLEASE MISTAKE ME FOR NOBODY* brings together works from 2000 to 2020 that revolve around the theme of paranoia. Works such as *OPERATION NUKOREA* (2003) attain particular relevance in our times increasingly marked by wars and nuclear threats verging on reality. The work envisions a nuclear attack by North Korea on the South Korean capital of Seoul using vivid and disturbing language. Most of the works on display were translated specifically for this exhibition into German for the first time.

Since its inception in the late 1990s, YHCHI has developed a distinctive style through its negotiation of cultural identity, material inequalities, (police) violence, the confluence of fact and fiction, and geo-

neuer.berliner.kunstverein.n.b.k.gmbH.

Geschäftsführer: Marius Babias

Sitz der Gesellschaft: Berlin

Eingetragen beim Amtsgericht Charlottenburg

Handelsregisternummer HRB 232117

USt-IdNr.: DE 346 699 834

n.b.k.

political realities, including the division of Korea. The works of the art duo are characterized by a high degree of abstraction that simultaneously constitutes its signature: YHCHI's wide-ranging themes and interests are expressed almost exclusively through black writing on a white background. The text is synchronized to music that is often self-composed, building up sentence by sentence, word by word, or letter by letter.

YHCHI's works were designed as Flash animations until 2020 and will continue to be made available, in the form of video files, to a global audience on their website: yhchang.com. From 1996, the now obsolete Flash animation software made it possible to play back animations using graphics, sounds, and text in small file sizes through internet browsers. The software enabled YHCHI to present its works to a broad audience using internet modems even before the advent of YouTube, broadband internet, and the now ubiquitous streaming of HD videos. This was also thanks to the fast loading time of only a few seconds for a Flash animation of any size, compared to several hours for a video, even with low resolution. YHCHI's works are therefore pioneering not only artistically but also technically.

The broad accessibility of YHCHI's works is expressed not only in the use of the internet as a conceptual space but also in the translation of its works into 26 languages to date. The art duo's works combine aspects of net art, video art, and literature, and embrace the egalitarian approaches to the distribution of narratives and messages they entail. Young-Hae Chang and Marc Voge did not succumb to the hype around interactivity that gripped the early days of the internet. Instead, for example, the supposed co-creation of net literature by its audience by clicking on hyperlinks is recognized as a fictitious interactivity and strictly rejected. YHCHI, certainly not without a twinkle in their eyes, also speak of wanting their works "to exert a dictatorial stranglehold on the reader."

In 2018, the M+ Museum in Hong Kong acquired the artist's proof 2/2 of YHCHI's entire body of work (including all existing and future works). YHCHI thus belongs to the tiny minority of artists whose future work has already been acquired by an internationally active museum during their lifetime. Every six months, M+ receives an update of its purchase in the form of a USB stick containing the drafts, translations, and screening files of YHCHI's works. M+ Museum also commissioned the large-scale work *CRUCIFIED TVS – NOT A PRAYER IN HEAVEN* (2021) for its opening in 2021. In New York City, the New Museum opened its new building in 2007 with the comprehensive installation *BLACK ON WHITE, GRAY ASCENDING*.

Biographical information

The works of YOUNG-HAE CHANG HEAVY INDUSTRIES (Young-Hae Chang and Marc Voge, live and work in Seoul; yhchang.com) have been translated into 26 languages to date. In 2012, they were Creative Arts Fellows of the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center. In 2018, the museum M+ Hong Kong acquired an archive of all their past and future work (*YHCHANG.COM/AP2: THE COMPLETE WORKS*). They gave the 2020 Renato Poggioli Lecture at Harvard University, Cambridge/Mass. In 2021 M+ commissioned a major work, *CRUCIFIED TVS*, for its inaugural museum opening. They have had solo presentations at

n.b.k.

Tate Modern, London (on- and offline, 2021); Kadist, San Francisco (2013); New Museum, New York (2007); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2007).

For further information and images please log in to the site www.nbk.org under *Press*.

Username: presse, password: n.b.k.2022

For any query please contact Michaela Richter. Phone: (030) 280 70 20 or e-mail: presse@nbk.org.

Neuer Berliner Kunstverein n.b.k. gGmbH is funded by the LOTTO-Stiftung Berlin and the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe.

