

**persbericht**  
**press release**

**VAN  
ABBE  
MUSEUM**



Overhauled Stories, Framer Framed (2023). Foto: Suin Kwon

## Sung Hwan Kim neemt bezoekers mee in zijn droomachtige filmomgevingen

Van 2 december 2023 t/m 26 mei 2024 te zien in het Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven

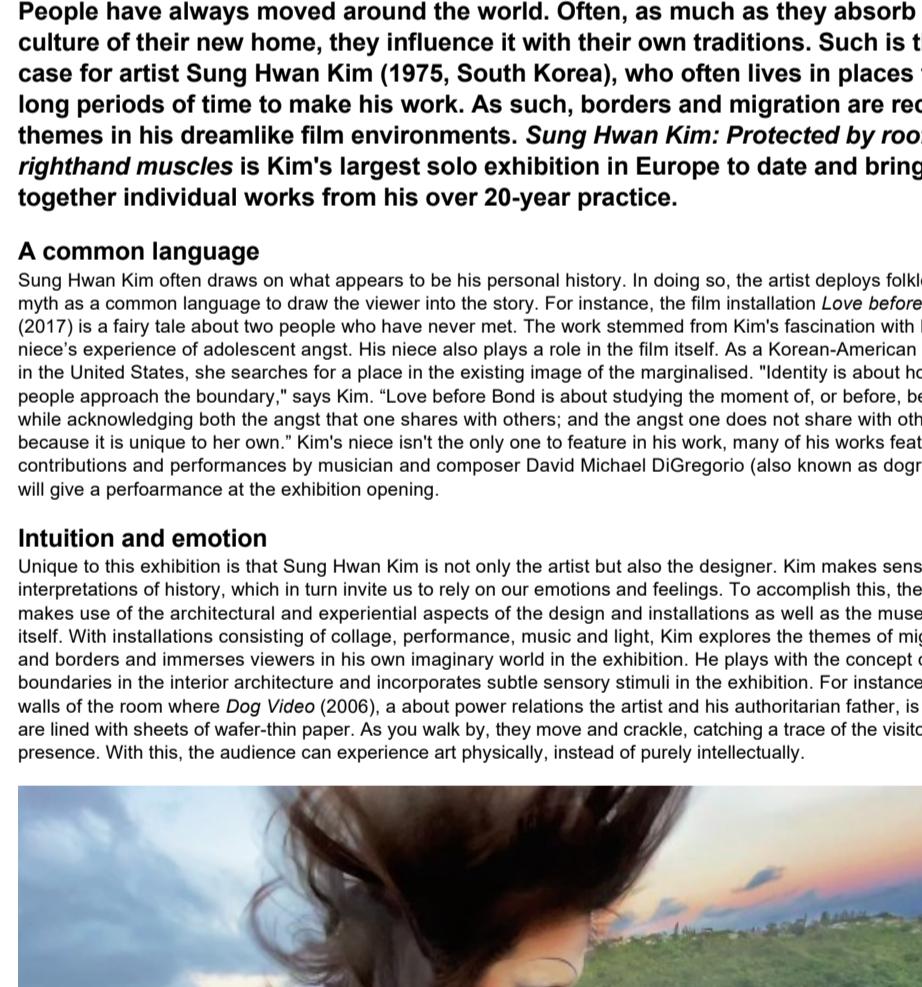
Mensen hebben zich altijd over de wereld verplaatst. Ze nemen vaak niet alleen de cultuur van hun nieuwe thuis over, maar beïnvloeden deze op hun beurt ook weer met eigen tradities. Zo ook kunstenaar Sung Hwan Kim (1975, Zuid-Korea), die vaak voor langere tijd op verschillende plekken woont. Grenzen en migratie zijn dan ook terugkerende thema's in zijn werk. *Sung Hwan Kim: Protected by roof and righthand muscles* is Kims grootste solotentoonstelling tot nu toe in Europa en brengt werken uit meer dan 20 jaar praktijk samen.

### Een gemeenschappelijke taal

Sung Hwan Kim haalt veel inspiratie uit zijn eigen verleden. Daarbij gebruikt de kunstenaar folklore en mythe als middel om mensen zijn verhaal in te trekken. Neem bijvoorbeeld de filminstallatie *Love before Bond* (2017); een sprookje over twee mensen die elkaar nooit hebben ontmoet. Het werk is ontstaan vanuit Kims fascinatie voor de onrust van zijn nichtje in de overgangsjaren van tiener naar volwassene, wie ook een rol speelt in het film. Als Koreaans-Amerikaanse vrouw in de Verenigde Staten zoekt ze naar ruimte in het bestaande beeld van gemarginaliseerden. "Identiteit gaat over hoe mensen de grens benaderen", zegt Kim. "*Love before Bond* gaat over het bestuderen van het moment van of vóór ze 'worden'. Met bijvoorbeeld angst die je erkennt en deelt met anderen, juist die angst die niet met anderen overeenkomt." Kim's nichtje is niet de enige die een rol speelt in zijn werk, veel van Kims werken bevatten bijdragen en uitvoeringen van muzikant en componist David Michael DiGregorio (ook bekend als dogr), wie ook een performance zal geven tijdens de opening van de tentoonstelling.

### Intuïtie en emotie

Uniek aan *Sung Hwan Kim: Protected by roof and righthand muscles* is dat Kim zowel de kunstenaar als vormgever van de tentoonstelling is. Kim maakt zintuiglijke interpretaties van de geschiedenis die ons uitnodigen om te vertrouwen op onze emoties en gevoelens. Om dit te bereiken maakt de kunstenaar gebruik van de architectonische en ervaringsgerichte aspecten van ontwerp en installaties, maar ook van het museum zelf. Met zijn installaties bestaande uit collage, performance, muziek en licht, verkent Kim thema's als migratie en grenzen en dompelt je onder in zijn eigen verbeeldingswereld. Ook verwerk hij subtiële zintuiglijke prikkels in de tentoonstelling. Zo zijn bijvoorbeeld de muren bij het werk *Dog Video* (2006), een film over machtsrelaties en de kunstenaar die met zijn autoritaire vader onderzoekt, behangen met vellen flinterdun papier. Terwijl je voorbijloopt, bewegen en knetteren ze. Jouw aanwezigheid als bezoeker maakt je onderdeel van de tentoonstelling. Een bezoek aan *Sung Hwan Kim: Protected by roof and righthand muscles* is niet alleen puur intellectueel, maar ook fysiek.

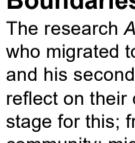


Credits: Hair is a piece of head (2021), productie still, met dank aan de kunstenaar.

### Grenzen en migratie

Het onderzoek *A Record of Drifting Across the Sea* (2017-) is gebaseerd op Kims onderzoek naar Koreanen zonder documentatie die begin twintigste eeuw naar de VS migreerden; hierin behoren ook de filminstallatie *Hair is a Piece of Head* (2022) en het tweede deel van deze serie, *By Mary Jo Freshley* (2023), dat voor het eerst te zien zal zijn in deze tentoonstelling. Met deze tentoonstelling nodigt de kunstenaar bezoekers uit om te reflecteren op hun eigen relatie met grenzen en migratie. Het Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is daarvoor de uitgelezen plek. Van Philips' gastarbeiders in de vorige eeuw tot de duizenden kenniswerkers van de huidige expat community: migratie is nauw verweven met het DNA van de stad. Na een open studio-project bij Framer Framed afgelopen voorjaar, is *Sung Hwan Kim: Protected by roof and righthand muscles* Kims eerste grote Europese solotentoonstelling. Na het Van Abbemuseum zal de tentoonstelling een internationale tournee maken naar onder andere ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien Karlsruhe en het Art Sonje Center in Seoul.

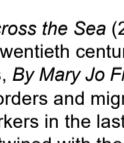
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### NOOT VOOR DE REDACTIE

Voor beeldmateriaal en vragen  
Kelly Hamers, communicatie & pers  
M: +31 (0)6 28100149  
E: pressoffice@vanabbemuseum.nl

English

## Sung Hwan Kim draws visitors into his dreamlike film environments

On display from 2 December 2023 to 26 May 2024 at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven

**People have always moved around the world. Often, as much as they absorb the culture of their new home, they influence it with their own traditions. Such is the case for artist Sung Hwan Kim (1975, South Korea), who often lives in places for long periods of time to make his work. As such, borders and migration are recurring themes in his dreamlike film environments. *Sung Hwan Kim: Protected by roof and righthand muscles* is Kim's largest solo exhibition in Europe to date and brings together individual works from his over 20-year practice.**

### A common language

Sung Hwan Kim often draws on what appears to be his personal history. In doing so, the artist deploys folklore and myth as a common language to draw the viewer into the story. For instance, the film installation *Love before Bond* (2017) is a fairy tale about two people who have never met. The work stemmed from Kim's fascination with his niece's experience of adolescent angst. His niece also plays a role in the film itself. As a Korean-American woman in the United States, she searches for a place in the existing image of the marginalised. "Identity is about how people approach the boundary," says Kim. "Love before Bond is about studying the moment of, or before, becoming, while acknowledging both the angst that one shares with others; and the angst one does not share with others because it is unique to her own." Kim's niece isn't the only one to feature in his work, many of his works feature contributions and performances by musician and composer David Michael DiGregorio (also known as dogr), who will give a performance at the exhibition opening.

### Intuition and emotion

Unique to this exhibition is that Sung Hwan Kim is not only the artist but also the designer. Kim makes sensory interpretations of history, which in turn invite us to rely on our emotions and feelings. To accomplish this, the artist makes use of the architectural and experiential aspects of the design and installations as well as the museum itself. With installations consisting of collage, performance, music and light, Kim explores the themes of migration and borders and immerses viewers in his own imaginary world in the exhibition. He plays with the concept of boundaries and in the interior architecture and incorporates subtle sensory stimuli in the exhibition. For instance, the walls of the room where *Dog Video* (2006), a about power relations the artist and his authoritarian father, is shown, are lined with sheets of wafer-thin paper. As you walk by, they move and crackle, catching a trace of the visitor's presence. With this, the audience can experience art physically, instead of purely intellectually.



Credits: Hair is a piece of head (2021), production still, courtesy of the artist.

### Boundaries and migration

The research *A Record of Drifting Across the Sea* (2017-) is based on Kim's research into undocumented Koreans who migrated to the US in the early twentieth century; this includes the film installation *Hair is a Piece of Head* (2022) and his second chapter in the series, *By Mary Jo Freshley* (2023). With this exhibition, the artist invites visitors to reflect on their own relationship to borders and migration. The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven sets the perfect stage for this; from Philips' guest workers in the last century to the thousands of knowledge workers of today's expat community: migration is closely intertwined with the city's DNA. After a prelude in Framer Framed last spring, *Sung Hwan Kim: Protected by roof and righthand muscles* is Kim's first major European solo exhibition. After the Van Abbemuseum, the exhibition will tour internationally to the ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien Karlsruhe and Art Sonje Center in Seoul, among other locations.

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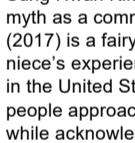


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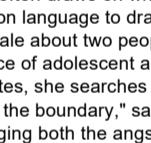
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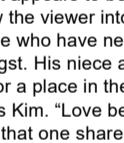
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