

## KOREA / VISUAL ARTS



## AYOUNG KIM

To walk through an exhibition by Korean artist **Ayong Kim** is to take a voyage across dark and eerie waters, where real events rub shoulders with myth, memories are made mutable, and what we think we know as fact becomes as solid as a shadow.

Never seen before in Australia, Ayong Kim's work is presented in two exhibitions with the world premiere of **Porosity Valley, Portable Holes** along with **In This Vessel We Shall Be Kept**, which enthralled audiences at her solo exhibition at Palais de Tokyo in Paris in 2016.

Her works draw on forms across the artistic spectrum – film, photography, dance, song and installation – to explore the embedded relationships between apparently distant subjects. As Kim's unfamiliar spaces are navigated, new and curious connections arise.

Kim's work has been presented in venues as far afield as the 2015 Venice Biennale, the Maraya Art Centre in Dubai, New York's Museum of Arts and Design and London's Royal Academy of Arts.

She has been a resident at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, and Pavillon Neuflyze OBC Research Lab at Palais de Tokyo, where she created *In This Vessel We Shall Be Kept*.

## IN THIS VESSEL WE SHALL BE KEPT

Ayong Kim's 2016 solo exhibition at Palais de Tokyo in Paris is sewn from sources as varied as the Epic of Gilgamesh and the story of Noah's Ark, the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railroad of the Japanese Imperial era and the tragic capsizing of the Korean ferry Sewol in 2014. From these diverse threads Kim spins a vast web of meaning in which events speak to each other across the void. Surging beneath it all is the dark lifeblood of human history: oil, which wends its way from the Bible and Quran to the conflicts that grip the planet today. Visually bold and conceptually resonant, *This Vessel* haunts the deepest recesses of the mind.

## POROSITY VALLEY, PORTABLE HOLES – WORLD PREMIERE

Australia's mass shifts by seven centimetres a year. What lies beneath this heaving and unstable form? This Festival commission furthers Kim's signature fascination with the invisible forces that underwrite the world, here imagining subterranean geologies as living beings and underground stories pushing and pulling beneath the ground on which we stand. Inspired by notions of porosity, the migration of bodies and information, plot holes and holes as plot devices, it is a strange meeting of ideas that can only co-exist uneasily, conveyed through an overlapping cacophony of the real and virtual, the aural and visual.

## IN THIS VESSEL WE SHALL BE KEPT

Collingwood Arts Precinct, The Gym

Fri 6 – Sun 22 Oct

10am – 7pm

FREE

## POROSITY VALLEY, PORTABLE HOLES

Royal Botanical Gardens, Mueller Hall Herbarium

Fri 6 – Sun 22 Oct (not Mondays)

10am – 7pm

FREE

[www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)

#melbfest

## MEDIA CONTACT

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