

Desirable Fairy Tales Between Fantasy & Reality

Exhibit Dates **May 10 - 25, 2010**
Mon - Fri: 9 am - 12pm, 1:30pm - 5:30 pm

▪ Mina Cheon, Hye Rim Lee, Gilbert Trent, Satomi Shirai

Opening Reception Wednesday, May 10 at 6pm | KORUS House, Embassy of the Republic of Korea 2370 Massachusetts Ave, NW Washington, DC 20008

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"Desirable Fairy Tales" Art Exhibition Explores Identity and Adulthood

Opening Events: March 10 (Wed) 6pm. KORUS House
Reception and Gallery Tour with Artists
Opening Performance by banished? productions
Outdoor Video Projection "Lash" by Hye Rim Lee
Book Exhibit "Shamanism + Cyberspace" by Mina Cheon

**Desirable Fairy Tales
Between Fantasy and Reality**

Mina Cheon, Hye Rim Lee, Gilbert Trent, Satomi Shirai
Curated by Jeong-ok Jeon

KORUS House, Embassy of the Republic of Korea (Washington, DC)
March 10 (Wednesday) - 25 (Thursday), 2010

KORUS House Hours: Mon-Fri 09-12 & 14-17 | Tel: 202.939.5688
2370 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, DC 20008 | www.dynamic-korea.com

KORUS House and Project Andini are pleased to announce *Desirable Fairy Tales: Between Fantasy and Reality*, a group exhibition featuring four contemporary artists with different cultural and aesthetic backgrounds: Mina Cheon, Hye Rim Lee, Gilbert Trent, and Satomi Shirai.

As the first art exhibition program organized by Project Andini, an art collective founded in March 2009, this exhibition includes visual, installation, and video art that explores how identity as an adult is often more complex and diverse than the roles and self-images prescribed in childhood. The opening reception will also feature experiential performance artists from banished? productions, an exhibit of Mina Cheon's book *Shamanism +*

Cyberspace, an outdoor video projection of Hye Rim Lee's *Lash*, and exhibition tours by the artists and guest curator, Jeong-ok Jeon.

Desirable Fairy Tales attempts to expose the absurdity of limiting socially-accepted behaviors and the notion that everyone should aspire to the same personal ideal, perceptions which are often rooted in childhood play experiences. Based on their different personal experiences and nationalities, the featured artists' works share a theme of typical girl's toys, such as the Westernized paper dolls once popular in Korea, life-like doll houses, and the ageless, unobtainably "perfect" Barbie doll. This exhibition encourages audiences to see the disconnect between fantasy and reality in the childhood world, and to challenge socially-invented set formulas and concepts of identity. For more information and images, visit www.Dynamic-Korea.com or www.projectandini.org.

NOTE: This exhibition features some artwork with mature, adult themes; audience discretion is advised.

The exhibition will be on display at KORUS House March 10 - 25, 2010 (building

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hours are Mon-Fri, 9 am – 12 pm and 2 – 5:30 pm). An RSVP is only required for the opening reception.

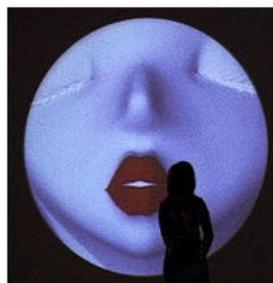
This event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is required.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 @ 6 - 8 pm

WHERE: KORUS House – 2370 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington DC 20008

RSVP: Please [click here to complete our online RSVP form.](#)

Or, you can still RSVP by email or phone to Adam Wojciechowicz at AWOJ@koreaembassy.org or (202) 587-6168. Please be sure to include your name, a contact point, and the total number of guests.



About The Artists and Their Work

Korean American artist **Mina Cheon** (PhD, MFA), is a new media artist, writer, and educator who divides her time between Baltimore, New York, and Seoul. Her contribution includes South Korean paper dolls of the 1970s that reveal the influence of Western ideals, especially in the way little Korean girls came to idealize the American life style, and also North Korean dolls. She is currently a full-time professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore teaching studio and liberal arts. As an artist, she has shown her works internationally, including solo exhibitions at the Lance Fung Gallery in New York, Insa Art Space in Seoul, and C. Grimaldis Gallery in Baltimore. More at www.mincheon.com.

Korean American multi-media artist **Hye Rim Lee**, based in Seoul, New York, and Auckland, has shown her digital animation and performance works in solo and group exhibitions, art fairs, and film screenings. Her contributions, two short animations, focus on popular culture, particularly cyber culture and notions of femininity in video games. Lee has participated in several artist-in-residency programs such as ISCP in New York and SSamzie Space in Seoul. She has a BFA in Intermedia from The

University of Auckland, and a degree in Voice from Ewha Womans University. More at www.hyerimlee.com.

Inspired by a Buddhist philosophy of human existence, American **Gilbert Trent**, an African American, gay artist, explores issues of race, sex, and gender through representational images of paper dolls. His contribution also includes an installation as an extended media that reflects the perplexity between a boy's feminine desire and reality. Trent received a BS in Fine Arts Education from Virginia State University and MA in Studio Art from New York University's Venice Program. He currently teaches studio and digital art in the private sector and participates in a studio program at Arlington Art Center in Arlington, Va. More at www.gilberttrent.com.

Japanese American artist **Satomi Shirai** is interested in the assimilation and transformation of culture as a result of migration and time. Her contribution, interiors photographs of detailed miniature homes staged with plastic toys from doll house kits, portray Western architecture and Japanese domestic life; the blurring of reality and fantasy is meant to illustrate the delusion of an ideal lifestyle. Her work has been shown worldwide, including at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, the Arlington Art Center in Arlington, Va., the National Portrait Gallery in London, and at Motus Fort in Japan. She has participated in the Akiyoshidai International Art Village in Yamaguchi and her work is included in the collection of the Kiyosato Museum of Photography Art in Yamanashi. She is currently an MFA candidate at City University of New York, Hunter College. More at www.satomishirai.com.

Guest curator **Jeong-ok Jeon** is the founder and director of Project Andini, an art collective based in Washington D.C. Her past work includes guest curator for the US ASEAN Film & Photography Festival in Washington D.C. (2006), second curator at SSamzie Space in Seoul, Korea (2002-04), and curatorial assistant for the Korean Pavilion Exhibition at the 50th Venice Biennale in Italy (2003). In 2010, she begins her MA in Philosophy at George Mason University. She holds an MFA in Fibers from Savannah College of Art and Design and a BFA in Fiber Arts from Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea. More at www.projectandini.org.

Banished? productions is an avant-pop performance company that generates immersive interdisciplinary art experiences and is committed to producing quality work from multiple artistic expressions, particularly in performance experiments that play with text and form. More at www.banishedproductions.org.

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