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PROJETO SONAE// SERRALVES

KOREAN ARTIST HAEGUE YANG CHOSEN FOR THE SONAE|SERRALVES 2016 PROJECT

Haegue Yang (Hangul, South Korea, 1971) is the invited artist for the next edition of the Sonae|Serralves project, at the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art. This is the fourth time the Sonae|Serralves project invites an artist to create new pieces of de art, this year again in close relation with Serralves' natural and architectonic context, much like in 2014 with the Cold Shoulder exhibition, by Iranian Nairy Baghramian.

The Sonae|Serralves project is focused on promoting culture and bringing the community closer to the arts, granting the national audience a first contact with the highly internationally renowned Korean artist Haegue Yang.

Suzanne Cotter, curator of the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, commented on Haegue Yang: "The poetic expression of the contemporary cultural states present in Yang's work, together with her ability to create pieces at an ambitious scale, communicating with us throughout time and space, explains the choice of this young artist for the 2016 edition of the Sonae|Serralves project. This invitation from Sonae and Serralves constitutes an important landmark in Yang's career. Installing her work at the Serralves Park will give the audience a new light on how artists can intervene on our everyday surroundings".

Catarina Oliveira Fernandes, head of Communication, Brand and Social Responsibility at Sonae, claims: 'Sonae wishes to contribute for the promotion of the social and cultural wellbeing of the communities in which it operates, for which it has been fostering, throughout the years, the development of knowledge and culture. The 4th edition of the Sonae | Serralves project is a successful example of this commitment, as it has allowed to bring to Portugal national and international artists of a growing value. This initiative also contemplates a great openness and proximity of the academic audience, namely by involving Art students who will assist the artist in the elaboration and implementation of the pieces, as well as conducting open sessions of the artist at four Portuguese universities.'

Context and localization are fundamental aspects in the work of Haegue Yang. The artist created big dimension pieces for the South Korea Pavilion at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009, for the Kunsthaus Bregenz in Austria and for the Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art of Seoul, in Korea. Her latest big dimension works are Approaching: Choreography Engineered in Never-Past Tense, a vast kinetic installation built at the former train station of Kassel, in Germany, for the Documenta 13; and also An Opaque Wind, a sculptural intervention outdoors produced in 2015 for the 12th Sharjah Biennale, in the United Arab Emirates.

Haegue Yang is one of the most featured artists of her generation. Her sculptural language includes everyday objects we can find at our own homes and everywhere around us, like blinders, clothes lines,

decorative lighting, heaters, air fresheners, fans. These are the raw material for the creation of spectacular fluctuant environments and installations crowded with totemic figures, usually conceived as movement choreographies in which the sculpture and the spectator are active participants. Yang's installations, complex and subtle, are characterized by sensorial experiences that evoke touching, hearing, tasting and seeing, as well as states of ephemerality and space and cultural mobility. Even though her work is inspired by the Buddhist philosophy and oriental rites, in recent years Haegue Yang has started to approach the canons of western modernism in art and dance. From The Rite of Spring, by Igor Stravinsky (1908), to The Triadic Ballet, created in 1922 by Oskar Schlemmer, professor at Bauhaus, including the decorative schemes created in 1928 by Sophie Taeuber-Arp with Hans Arp and Leo Van Doesburg for the Salle des Fetes Aubette in Strasbourg, for which Yang recently conceived a series of "sculptures to wear".

Artist Biography

Haegue Yang was born in South Korea in 1971. She completed her studies in Fine Arts in Seoul and at the prestigious Staedelschule in Frankfurt. Her work has been displayed on exhibitions at: Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul (2015); MoMA, New York (2015); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2015); Bergen Kunsthalle, Bergen (2013); Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Strasbourg (2013); Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2013); Haus der Kunst, Munich (2012); Tate Modern, London (2012); Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2011); Arnolfini, Bristol (2011); New Museum, New York (2010), and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2009).

In 2009, Yang represented South Korea at the 53rd Venice Biennale. In 2012, she participated in Documenta 13, at Kassel. In 2015, she was a resident artist at Atelier Calder, Saché, France. Haegue Yang lives and works between Berlin and Seoul. She teaches Fine Arts at the Malmö Art Academy, in Sweden.

About Sonae

Sonae is a Retail company with two major partnerships in the areas of Shopping Centres (Sonae Sierra) and Telecommunications (Sonaecom).
Present in over 60 countries, Sonae's strategic goals are: internationalisation, the diversification of its investment style, as well as the leverage and reinforcement of its core assets and competencies.

Sonae develops an active social responsibility policy and is Founder of the Serralves Foundation. Sonae believes it can contribute towards promoting the social and cultural wellbeing of the communities where it is implemented. Thus, is has been long encouraging a cultural development by supporting activities, projects and events organized in partnership with other organizations. Sonae supports its community in six different priority areas: environmental awareness, culture, education, health and sports, science and innovation and social solidarity.