

Joo, Yeongjae. "버려진 수영장, 예술로 채우다 (Review: Black Out Project)", *The Kyunghyang Shinmun*, 28 May 2012.

경향신문



Woomin Kim 'Time flies' (left) and 'Time Falls' (right), silicone, variable installation, 2012

There is a waste pool on the slopes of Mt. Gwanak, where the Seoul National University campus is located. After more than 30 years of being abandoned, the exterior walls of the building have peeled paint and the ceiling has collapsed in places. Scattered graffiti, rubbish, and rough weathering make it difficult for people to access easily.

However, the artists received artistic inspiration from the visual intensity and unique spatiality of the abandoned swimming pool. They use the waste pool to paint, install sculptures, and perform. The exhibition 'Blackout' is a work of 'filling the old darkness with light and meaning' in a swimming pool that loses its original function and is on the verge of disappearing. 'Blackout' refers to a state in which electricity is cut off, but at the same time it means a lack of communication or loss of consciousness.

A total of 14 people participated in the exhibition, including graduate students and graduates of Seoul National University College of Art, as well as external artists. Although the electricity is cut off and it is a remote and shabby place at the level of a haunted house, they actively accepted these restrictions as their work plan.

There is a shower and changing room on the first floor of the swimming pool, and an outdoor pool on the second floor. Writer Park Ho-eun (30) chose a dark room on the first floor and proceeded with the work 'Why didn't you commit suicide?' He interpreted, "The process of slowly being demolished is the will that the building left in its body, and it shows the death of the building over a long period of time." Thirty copies of the suicide note found in newspaper articles and books were printed on black wooden boards and hung on the wall in pairs with similar personalities. The will is an attempt to empathize with the suicide person in a world where people talk about the death of others.

Yoon Chae-eun, 25, covered the entire room, newly painted white with peels of paint from the building, like a mosaic. It was titled 'Pick up the clothes you took off and put them on'. He said,

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"I wanted to express the layer of time that makes me realize that this much time has passed only when the things I've been forgetting come off." She said that when she first came here, the peeled paint hangs like berries and she welcomed it as the best place to express her thoughts.

Woomin Kim (25) presented works such as 'Time flies' by squeezing various colors of silicone onto the canvas and letting it flow naturally. Depending on the amount of curing agent added, the length and thickness of the silicone flow varies. He said that he felt the emotion and beauty in the shortening of eternal time and wanted to make his work itself look like a natural phenomenon.

Among the swimming pool buildings, the oldest and most inhospitable space is occupied by artist Jeong Young-jin (25), who majored in fashion. He made a spider's web by donating old clothes that he no longer wears from his acquaintances and weaving them one stitch at a time like a spider builds a house. The title of the work was 'There was a body temperature'. He said, "It is a space that has been abandoned for 30 years, but it is also a space where people have come and gone and their actions have been accumulated. Writer Jin Na-rae (28) conducts a performance called 'Story Playhouse - Faceless Brave', which reproduces graffiti left in various places in the building with voice. There are many pictures and graffiti on the walls of the swimming pool building. Jin Na-rae shouts out the unspeakable desires of those who timidly scribble in a secret place.

The exhibition goes beyond the physical dimension and brings to life a building that is disappearing from memory just before death. The waste pool becomes a living, breathing space with the works of 14 artists during the exhibition period, speaking, singing and showing. You should visit the exhibition hall as if you were walking. You can find it by taking a city bus or a village bus, getting off at the Genetic Engineering Research Center stop on the Seoul National University campus, and walking up 100m along the hiking trail behind the seismic observatory. The exhibition is open until June 8.