



SPRING 2021 CKS COLLOQUIUM SERIES

MONUMENTAL GIFTS

MARCH 10
(WED)
@ 8 PM
VIA ZOOM

A LINK TO THE DOCUMENTARY *BLACK MONUMENT 2017* WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION.

SPEAKER

CHE Onejoon, is a visual artist and a filmmaker. One of his first artistic projects involved photographing Seoul's red-light district, which began to decline after the anti-prostitution law took effect in 2004. He also made short films and archives that capture the trauma of the modern Korean history by documenting the ruins of the global Cold War: the bunkers constructed in Seoul during the immediate aftermath of the Korean War, and the U.S. Army camps in South Korea vacated after the Iraq War. In recent years, Che worked on a documentary project about the monuments and statues made by North Korea for many sub-Saharan African nations. The resultant film is *Black Monument* (2017). His on-going project seeks to create a documentary theater, a film, an installation about Afro-Asian culture and identity. Che has exhibited internationally at the Taipei Biennial (2008), Palais de Tokyo modules (2012), the Venice Architecture Biennale (2014), the New Museum Triennial (2015), the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art Afrika (2015), the Busan Biennale (2018), the Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art Survival Kit 10.1 (2019), and others.



ABOUT THE TALK

The Mansudae Art Studio in North Korea has constructed statues, monuments, and buildings in eighteen countries in the African continent. Among them, roughly half the countries received these constructions for free. This North Korean diplomatic strategy of offering gifts was partially driven by the Cold War diplomatic competition between North and South Korea. Since the Korean War had ended in 1953 with the signing of an armistice agreement, the Military Demarcation Line and the stationing of the U.S. Army in South Korea have always been an agenda that North Korea wanted to address before the United Nations (UN). North Korea perceived the newly independent African nations' entry to the UN in massive numbers as an opportunity to tilt the international discussion in its favor. The talk will present North Korea's African diplomacy through arts, largely unknown in the West and even in the African countries.



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