

Berlin, August 17 2022

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### **“Unspeakable Community”**

**Immersive Site-specific performance by Grace Euna Kim**

#### **Dates:**

**Friday, September 2, 2022, 19:52**

**Saturday, September 3, 2022, 19:50**

#### **Location:**

**Moabiter Stadtgarten, next to ZK/U - Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik, Berlin**

**Siemensstraße 27, 10551 Berlin**

**To declare your presence at the encounter and follow its movements:**

<https://forms.gle/RsKWpt24CPE3BC586>

With her new immersive performance "Unspeakable Community", Grace Euna Kim presents a subversive exploration of anticipation and togetherness **that puts expectations to the test.**

**A broad Berlin public is invited to come together at the park without knowing what exactly will transpire.** What unfolds is an immersive social choreography: an unpredictable experiment in radical solidarity that turns the “theater” of the audience inside out and calls the fictions of reality into question.

The performative encounter therefore **questions the failure of language in times of crisis, and how this produces the conditions for social conflict and oppression.** By devising a perceptual, non-verbal, sensory charged space that is activated only by human bodies in space — Kim aims to unpack what is hidden behind the constructs of language, as a means to empower a transparent intimacy among strangers from different (and even opposing) views.

At its root the work questions **the potential of disagreement as a basis of radical solidarity.** How can we create spaces of resistance and solidarity, without unintentionally producing new forms of exclusion? What would it mean to embody „solidarity in difference” through actions and not words? How can we use language against language?

The political theorists Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe propose **a model of „radical democracy” that rejects consensus—seeing it as a foundation of totalitarianism. Instead they argue that tensions of difference are essential to a healthy plural society.** They

suggest that disrupting consensus-based meaning systems (such as language) could be a way to make visible the „real" that is hidden behind the collective scripts that shape our worldviews. And that in doing so, we could potentially reinvent the dominant ideologies. With this in mind „Unspeakable Community" seeks to investigate the transgressive potential of immersive social choreography, to **be a catalyst to collectively question, imagine, and test novel ways of being together.**

The work is foregrounded by mass publicity as well as experimental guerrilla, civic and activist communication and social-media tactics. During August, the „invitations" to the performance thereby unfold as a series of provocations in virtual and urban spaces. Grace Euna Kim thus **engages an intercultural public across Berlin's divided demographic, with the aim to bring them together in September for the collective experiment in radical solidarity.**

These transcultural and multilingual actions aim to raise questions with a diverse range of people and communities throughout Berlin — **from the far left to the far right, to the most marginalized and most excluded, to the most common and the most privileged.**

A constant companion to the exchange is a critique of how **language potentially produces antagonism through its limitations**, its social masks, and its performative scripts. How language potentially creates cages; demarcates borders; divides rather than unites; and excludes rather than building bridges or empathy. What would happen, if „diversity" involves ALL people including those who we disagree or feel in conflict with, and even feel oppressed or provoked by? Beyond the established systems of meaning that our collective existence depends on, **could we experience a solidarity which unites us despite our differences and disagreements, in a space that is beyond language?**

***Grace Euna Kim** is a Korean-American performance and visual artist, choreographer, and researcher who devises immersive encounters through a lens of psychoanalytic and critical theory. In her performance and social practice, she deploys methods of deconstruction and subversion as a means to question, decode, and reinvent the theatre of the audience themselves, and thereby work through embedded social and political issues. Grace Euna Kim has orchestrated large- and small-scale performances in diverse site-specific contexts—from citywide public interventions; to cultural and educational institutions; to the intimacy of a private home. Her work has been presented in numerous art and research contexts, recently including Haus der Statistik, Berlin; Schauspiel Leipzig; Frankfurt Lab; ZK/U Center for Art and Urbanistics, Berlin; ASCA Univ. of Amsterdam; Solyanka VPA, Moscow; Blueproject Foundation, Barcelona; Museum of Nonconformist Art, St. Petersburg; Cité de l'Image, Luxembourg; White Box, NY; and Seoul Museum. She is a lecturer at the Weißensee Academy*

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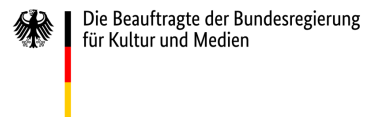
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