

DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Press release

Yva Jung: Monday Morning

30 May – 13 July

Departure Lounge, 64 Bute Street, Luton

Preliminary performance: Sunday 28 April, 12-2pm, The Mall, Luton FREE

Exhibition opening reception: Thursday 30 May 6-8pm All welcome

Closing event: Saturday 13 July 1-3pm All welcome

Artist Yva Jung is fascinated by planetary rhythms, the cycles of life and death and the stories we generate in life. As an introduction to her forthcoming exhibition, Jung will barter sculptures made from harvested morning dew for stories and experiences shared by Luton's market-goers in a remarkable piece of performance art in the town's Mall on Sunday 28 April. Jung will use the stories harvested at her performance as inspiration for new works which will form part of the exhibition from 30 May at Departure Lounge's gallery on Bute St.

A series of new works on paper will record the performance – transactions between the artist and her "customers" and the exchange of dew for stories. The exhibition, *Monday Morning*, will also bring together photographs, video pieces and sculptures.

In this new body of work, Jung explores the linguistic roots of 'Monday' meaning "day of the moon", alongside the notions about the moon, its phases and cycles and the parallel rhythms of female life. Using fleeting and temporary forms, Jung examines uprooted-ness, and loss through a profoundly poetic lens.

Jung became fascinated by the phenomenon of morning dew after she moved to rural Hertfordshire. Every Monday (moon-day) for a year she set out to harvest and permanently record this fleeting and impermanent natural phenomenon. Using a variety of tools – a syringe, a spoon, a surgical tube – she gathered 52 samples, a performance which was captured and recorded in the photographic and video works entitled *Morning Dew on Monday Morning (2017-19)*

Her sculpture *Half Moon Piece (2018)* contains 52 test tubes marking the 52 Mondays in the year – each tube filled with water to reflect the fullness of the moon on that Monday. The curved upper surfaces of the liquid – called *menisci* – mimic the rising and falling tides linked to the moon's cycles. Jung's convex rounded wooden sculptures reflect the shape and orbit of the moon. The imprinted demi-sphere in the wood also references the pregnant or female form again making visible the parallels between the female cycle and the rhythms of the lunar calendar.

First Day of Spring (2019) was created on 20 March this year – the Spring equinox – and explores the notion of loss at a common point of optimism in the year. This video piece captures a sense of



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absence through a collection of words taken from newspaper obituaries, each month for a year. The newness of the morning dew is contrasted with the gravity of death while the fleeting nature of dew, and perhaps life, is contrasted with the enduring burdens of grief.

Based in Hertfordshire, Korean born Yva Jung's visual art practice is time-based, site-specific, performative, interdisciplinary and evolutionary. Trained as a painter, she now includes sculpture, photography, moving image and improvised encounters in her work. She has recently completed a PhD in Fine Art at the Slade School of Art and has exhibited widely across the world.

Yva Jung said “My work starts when I observe something in (or out of) the world around me – something mundane in a new context. Whether it is distant as the moon, ordinary as morning dew or prosaic as Monday, I then set out to find tangible materials or imagery that reflect and rhyme with these observations. I often experiment with different media and forms of documentation. I invite audiences to see and respond to the work. I log the responses and from them generate a new, related or otherwise, collection of pieces capturing the responses of the audience.”

Matthew Shaul, Director of Departure Lounge, said “We are delighted to host Yva’s new and deeply poetic project at Departure Lounge. In a world in which everything happens at high speed her work asks us to take time out, to be mindful of and to value the rhythms of life and our planet, how we interact with it and each other, and the stories that are part of this. The exhibition marks the beginning of a new and more permanent phase in Departure Lounge’s development - as we emerge from the hugely successful ‘As You Change’ Project, we will continue to offer local, national and international artists meaningful opportunities to engage with our town and its stories, as Yva is doing with *Monday Morning*”

An illustrated booklet recording the transactions in Jung’s April performance will be given away to visitors at the closing event on Saturday 13 July.

This project is organised by Departure Lounge in collaboration with Luton Culture and is generously supported by Arts Council England and Revoluton Arts.

Visitor information

The Storefront, 64 Bute Street, Luton LU1 2EY

Open Thursday – Saturday 1pm– 6pm, and by appointment

Admission free

Telephone 01582 878100

PRESS ENQUIRIES:

For further information, interview requests and images please contact:

Hazel Foxon email hazel@foxon.org or tel 07801 234930 (not for publication)

Notes to Editors

Yva Jung



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Jung was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art, (London, 2016), MA Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts (New York, 2008) and BA Fine Arts from the Ewha Womans University (Seoul, 2016). She has received arts grants from various institutions including Arts Council England (2019), Arts Council Korea (2018, 2011, 2008), Jerome Foundation (2011) and Canada Council for the Arts (2010). Her work has been shown in various exhibitions including Art Night (London, 2017), KCCUK (London, 2016), CAFAM Biennale (Beijing, 2014) Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (Berwick-upon-Tweed, 2013), Taipei Contemporary Art Center (Taipei, 2013,) and Soho20 Gallery (New York, 2009). For more information please visit www.yvajung.com

Departure Lounge

Bringing 'new art to new places', Departure Lounge was set up in Luton 2010 initially organising a series of international contemporary art exhibitions in empty shops. With a particular emphasis on photography the gallery has collaborated closely with Luton Culture, delivering 'As You Change So Do I' a series of public art events for Luton which concluded in March 2019. The Gallery is now curating an independent exhibition programme with the support of Luton Culture, Arts Council England and other funders. www.departure-lounge.org.uk

Luton Culture is an arts and cultural charity providing exceptional and meaningful engagement with museums, arts centres, libraries and public art for the people of Luton and beyond. Luton Culture aims to deliver exemplary public engagement with arts and culture through its locally relevant and nationally important arts and cultural programmes, whilst actively nurturing creativity and artistic talent. <http://www.lutonculture.com/>

17 April 2019



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