

EXHIBITION GUIDE

EPISODE 14: EUNJO LEE

Before the Shadow Taught the Sun

21 Mar–04 May 2025

Eunjo Lee (b.1996, South Korea) is the latest artist to take part in CCA's ongoing commissioning series *Episodes*. Her new digital work, *Before the Shadow Taught the Sun*, constructs an immersive dystopian world from fragments of diverse mythologies to articulate a collective unconscious. The narrative departs from previous films in her ongoing cycle, moving into darker territories to explore how we witness, understand, and ultimately transcend pain. In the work, characters struggle to confront and unravel suffering. The sun, named in the title, represents life in a radiant yet cold reality, offering a window of hope.

The film revolves around a central temple, and the figures of a young girl and an architect. Four scenes each with a central symbol; severed hand, bones, wings and fresh meat, play different roles within the multilayered narrative. An elderly architect tells the story of a young girl who went into their temple and never returned. We then witness the progress of this girl's spiritual journey, and her eventual emergence. As the architect enters the temple, we discover that she is an older version of the young girl; their movements and stories loop through time. They both ultimately sacrifice their bodies to become pure light, and merge with the form of a world tree.

In various scenes the figures engage in acts of prayer, honouring the creatures on which they feed, and enacting a cyclical exchange of body for nourishment and reincarnation. Their use of prayer and ritual maintains a balance between nature and themselves. As the figures attempt to establish a connection with nature through the cycles of death and decay, Lee encourages a reflection on processes of grief and the loss of loved ones.

The work deploys sublime digital imagery and a multilayered score rendering Lee's narrative in the language of fantasy and science fiction. The floor of the gallery is lined with woodchip and buried aluminum panels. These correspond to the material qualities represented in the film, particularly the environment around the central temple. Gleaming panels suggest reflective pools of liquid. At the entrance of the exhibition is a lightbox bearing an image that collages the films' vectors into a composite image, acting as a key to Lee's aesthetic.

CREDITS

Music by Juliet Merchant

Sound Design and Sound Editing by Harry Charlton

Voiceover and Script Editing by Steph Hartop

Aluminium Installation Design by Jiwoo Kim

BIOGRAPHY

Eunjo Lee (b.1996, South Korea) is an artist and filmmaker based in London and Seoul. She recently graduated in MFA Fine Art from the Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford, winning the Mansfield-Ruddock Art Prize 2024. In 2023, she was awarded the Warden's Prize from Goldsmiths University for her BA in Fine Art and History of Art. Her recent film, 'Lullaby O' The Ruin' has been chosen for the final selection to be screened at NeMaf, the Seoul International ALT Cinema & Media Festival 2024. Eunjo previously created 3D visuals for the Techno-Tantrik Embodiment Project 'Your Rage Is Sacred' at Goldsmiths and FormaHQ in collaboration with artist Clémentine Bedos (2023), produced Paris Paloma's 'Last Woman on Earth' lyric video (2024), showcased her video art in various screenings including Modern Art Oxford (2024), and participated in several group exhibitions. She has prior experience as a filmmaker in Seoul, working on projects for the National IT Industry Promotion Agency and the Seoul Foundation for Arts between 2020 and 2021, including K-Arts ON-Road, ICT Cultural Lab, and the Seoul Performing Arts Project. Lee exhibited at Niru Ratnam Gallery in January 2025.

EPISODES

Episodes is an ongoing series of solo presentations that cuts through the main programming at Goldsmiths CCA and provides a counterpoint to the larger-scale exhibitions. Spanning installations, screenings, discursive events and new commissions, the focus of this programme is to provide an experimental platform for emergent practices.

Episodes is supported through the generosity of our *Episodes* exhibition circle.