



Park Minhee

NO LONGER GAGOK: ROOM 50

Korea

22 - 24 May 2020, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm & 7.30pm, & Sun, 3pm

Living Room, Festival House

Performed in Korean with some English translation

Synopsis

No Longer Gagok: Room 50 is an intimately poetic and utterly contemporary experience of a traditional Korean art form, conceived by Korean gagok vocalist, Park Minhee.

What does it mean to perform traditional music in the present-day?

For Park Minhee, a traditional vocalist trained in gagok, the process lies in an endless negotiation between past and present, re-interpreting the attitudes of past eras for a contemporary audience.

Cue *No Longer Gagok: Room 50*. Established in the 18th century, the highly regulated gagok form transforms into an intimate spatial experience in this work.

Representing a cyclical movement, audience members enter seven rooms – five in which they come up-close with performers, and two holding rooms.

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In these compact spaces and brief encounters, Park invites audiences to experience – and not watch – the performance, allowing gagok's beauty to permeate each listener's being. Is this gagok? Or no longer gagok?

Subtly moving, *No Longer Gagok: Room 50* is an ode to the deeply affecting power of the voice and an insightful glimpse into the changing faces of tradition.

Journey with SIFA

Park Minhee shares: "From my knowledge, Singapore has one of the best contemporary art scenes in Asia. I'm very grateful for being invited to SIFA that has been presenting great artists, including the ones who influenced me and my work. I'm looking forward to meeting new audiences in Singapore as well as being inspired by other works presented in SIFA 2020".

"Gagok is an 18th-century Korean vocal tradition. What Park Minhee does is make it relevant to an audience today. What's magical about the piece is that she and a group of 4 other singers will perform to you and you alone. You get to experience this one at a time. On one hand we have Tan Dun conducting the full SSO accompanied by a 100-strong choir. *No Longer Gagok: Room 50* is programmed because it is the complete opposite: it is a performance for one. It is a very special experience not to be missed," says Gaurav Kripalani, Festival Director.

Interviews:

Vocalist Park Minhee will be available for an email interview to share more on the following topics (proposed topics):

- Her personal observations on how different audiences with diverse backgrounds react to *No Longer Gagok*
- The ideas, perceptions, and assumptions about traditional Korea and the gagok art form that the production is trying to address

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ANNEX E

- How staging this production has changed her relationship with Korean history and heritage

About Park Minhee

Minhee Park is based in Seoul. She is a traditional vocalist trained in the Korean Intangible Cultural Property of gagok, a vocal music form believed to originate in Korea from around the 15th century and popular in salons in the 18th century. She creates an original style of contemporary performance based on her deep understanding of gagok.

Her series No Longer Gagok is an attempt to unravel the musical form and sound of gagok conceptually. These performances are staged by parkpark, a group founded by Park exploring post-colonial approaches to traditional art and questioning the customary forms of performance.

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