

Fotografisk Center presents solo exhibition with Jane Jin Kaisen, taking us into the currents of the sea and the cycle of time and life



© Jane Jin Kaisen, 2023, *Offering – Coil Embrace*, video still

*Fotografisk Center opens the exhibition Currents with the internationally recognised artist Jane Jin Kaisen on January 13. The exhibition unfolds a recurring theme in the practice of Kaisen, concerning the sea, nature, and human's connection with mythology, cosmology and the cycle of life and death. The exhibition presents both older works and Offering – Coil Embrace, a new extensive, research-based video installation that, with outset in shamanic myths and matriarchal cosmology, takes the viewer into the depths of the ocean.*

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Opening: January 13 from 5-7pm  
Exhibition period: January 14 – March 12 2023

### Nature, cosmology and diving culture

Kaisen's artistic practice spans the mediums of film, video installation, photography, performance and text. Her works are often based on extensive interdisciplinary research and engagement in minoritarian communities through which themes such as history, memory, trauma, boundaries and geopolitics are explored.

A shared premise for the works in the exhibition is that they all relate to nature, the sea and the lava coast around Jeju Island, located south of the Korean Peninsula, where the artist is born. Kaisen has in several of her works focused on Jeju's political history and militarisation, including the Jeju Massacre in 1947-54 (which came in the wake of Korea's decolonisation from Japan, the Cold War and the division of the country). In parallel with this historical and geopolitical interest in Jeju, Kaisen has created works over a period of more than ten years where she

has registered the sea and the natural environment of the island and their effect on social, cultural and spiritual conditions. The works in the exhibition thus take their point of departure in Jeju's shamanic traditions, matriarchal cosmology and myths, as well as their connection to the sea and to *haenyeo*, Jeju's distinctive diving culture and occupation, which was historically the domain of women who fed their families by diving for food.

## New research-based work unfolds the relation between humans and nature

The exhibition also presents *Offering – Coil Embrace*, a brand new work, a four-channel video installation filmed with underwater cameras off the coast of Jeju in the summer of 2022. A recurring visual motif in the new performative work is *sochang*, a long, white piece of cotton cloth that is associated with female labour and the human cycle of life from birth to death, while it also has an important spiritual meaning. In Jeju shamanism the cloth, among other, symbolises the passage between the living and the dead and the bridge to the gods. In a poetic and sensual way, the work connects past and present by way of elements like water, cloth and the body and prompts an awareness of the agency and transformative power of nature as well as the intimate relation between humans and nature and our indebtedness to nature.

The new work is one out of a cycle of works created as part of Kaisen's artistic research project *Currents: Oceanic Cosmologies, Sustainability, Commons, and Infrastructures of Compassion* (2022-2024), in which she explores oceanic cultures and spiritual infrastructures across national borders. The project that concerns themes of sustainability and conviviality, oceanic cosmologies, alternative social communities and infrastructures, also negotiates how media art can contribute to conjure other images and stories about human's relation to nature and its cycle.

## About the artist

Jane Jin Kaisen is a visual artist, filmmaker and professor at the School of Media Art, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. She has exhibited in a wide range of contexts internationally. Kaisen represented Korea at the 58th Venice Biennale in 2019 with the film installation *Community of Parting*. Subsequently, her exhibition *Community of Parting* at Kunsthal Charlottenborg was awarded "Exhibition of the Year 2020" by AICA, Denmark, and in 2022 she received the Danish Arts Foundation's three-year work grant. Kaisen has a Ph.D. in artistic research from the University of Copenhagen, an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles and an MA in art theory and media art, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and has studied at Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program.

## Publikation og artist talk

In connection with the exhibition, a richly illustrated publication with an essay by Signe Kahr Sørensen, director of Fotografisk Center and a conversation between Jane Jin Kaisen and *The Forest Curriculum*, a nomadic platform for interdisciplinary research and mutual learning established by the curators Pujita Guha and Abhijan Toto. Award-winning graphic design studio Spine Studio will design the

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publication, which is expected to be published in February. In connection with the launch of the publication, an artist talk with Jane Jin Kaisen will also be held. The artist talk and publication launch will be announced on our website and social media during January.

## Funds

The exhibition is supported by Augustinus Fonden, Beckett-Fonden, Den A.P. Møllerske Støttefond, Knud Højgaards Fond, Konsul George Jorck og Hustru Emma Jorck's Fond, the Danish Arts Foundation, William Demant Fonden and Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond. Kaisen's research project and new works are supported by the Ministry of Culture Denmark's Artistic Research Funding Programme (KUV-Puljen), the Danish Arts Foundation and the Danish Art Workshops.

## Press images, teaching material and contact

For interviews, press preview or additional material, please contact Fotografisk Center: +45 33930996 / [assistent@fotografiskcenter.dk](mailto:assistent@fotografiskcenter.dk). Press images can be downloaded here: <https://fotografiskcenter.dk/presse>. In connection with the exhibition, teaching material is produced for the secondary school and upper secondary education levels. The teaching material can be downloaded from January 14 here: <https://fotografiskcenter.dk/undervisning>

For further information and opening hours please visit <https://fotografiskcenter.dk>

Exhibition tags: #kjanejin #currents

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