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C H E L S E A

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gongsan Kim Trampled Ember

May 21—June 15, 2013

OPENING RECEPTION:
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 6-8 PM

SOHO20 CHELSEA GALLERY
547 West 27th Street, Suite 301
New York, NY 10001
Hours: Tues.-Sat. 12-6pm



SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery is pleased to announce *Trampled Ember* by Gongsan Kim which will be on view from May 21 through Jun 15, 2013. This exhibition was inspired by artist's personal experience and response to the current North Korean situation and North Korean refugees scattered throughout China and neighboring countries.

Many decades ago, Kim's father defected from North Korea in order to avoid the communist regime, leaving family and friends behind. The pain shared within her family becomes more acute as she investigates the stories of North Korean refugees who are treated unfairly and inhumanly killed. The wartime wound emphasized by its trauma has persistently resided in the presence of these people.

Gongsan Kim specifically expresses her compassion to the refugees through her arrangements of scorching burlap. The artist rolls up the fabric and accumulates them to burn as if she collected the tragic stories of the refugees, and the material suits to symbolize the victims and their tumultuous life and death. Along with burlap, red paint is added to visualize the blood shattered by the refugees and sublimated as a flower out of dead bodies. The artist hopes to represent the unified land of Korea in the future as a consequence of these tragic unknown heroes. Her act of creating this work itself proposes as a ritual through which she could solace the spirits of dead refugees and heal her own traumas of North Korea. These apparently abstract and modern images have deep messages of human rights and the viewer is invited to join in the rite of passage with the artist.

Gongsan Kim, a Korean artist living in America since 1997, received her BFA 2009 from the Corcoran College of Art & Design in Washington D.C. Her first solo show was held in Korea Monitor Gallery of VA in 2010, with the title "New Korea: Almost There." Her second and third solo exhibition, "NK Elegy" were held in Korean Embassy in Washington DC and Gallery All in Seoul, Korea in 2012. She had two-person and group shows in NY and DC area. Her works are in the collection of YWAM/Antioch Institute for International Ministry in Seattle, School of Dream in Korea. Her work has been reviewed in the Ukoreanews, Korea Daily News and Radio Free Asia. She is a member of HanMee Artist Association based in DC. This is her first solo exhibition at SOHO20 Chelsea gallery.

For more information please contact the gallery at info@soho20gallery.com or
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