

PRESS RELEASE

**Private Collection:
Unperformed Objects**

An installation by Geumhyung Jeong

Exhibition Date: 28th September - 11th November 2017
Opening times: Mon - Sat, 10:00 - 18:00
Private View: 27th September, 18.30 - 21:00

Delfina Foundation is delighted to present *Private Collection: Unperformed Objects*, the first UK solo exhibition by South Korean artist Geumhyung Jeong. In her practice as choreographer, dancer and performer, Jeong constantly renegotiates the relationship between the human body and the objects that surround it. She has built up a collection of plain everyday objects upon which she bestows a bizarre, disconcerting life through an intense and risky interaction with her own body to challenge notions of sexuality, technology and the female body.



In 2016, Jeong exhibited her complete collection at Atelier Hermes in Seoul as the recipient of the Hermès Foundation Missulsang Award. At Delfina Foundation, she creates a new installation that explores the relationship between her 'collection' and her creative process. Jeong has selected 'unperformed objects' - mannequins, vacuum cleaners, training machines and medical apparatus with a latent potential. The exhibition brings the narrative of these objects themselves into play, alongside decision-making and failure in the process of making performances.

In the gallery, these objects are clinically displayed on plinths, under strip lighting. Video monitors show clips of the 'performed objects' not present, those modified by Jeong and activated in durational performances where they are first used in intended and routine ways before Jeong's movements morph into erotic, obsessive, or antagonistic actions. Jeong feeds her own energy back into these inanimate objects, positing the female body as the locus of reproductive responsibility within a gendered, exploitative economy.

In this light, the 'unperformed objects' become a collection of relics of a notion of civilization that Jeong seeks to challenge.

Live Performance at Tate

In association with the exhibition, Tate Modern will present *7 ways*, a live performance by Jeong in The Tanks during Frieze week, along with a related installation.

Performance dates: Tuesday, 3rd October at 17:30 and Thursday, 5th October at 19:00

Delfina Foundation

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Korean Cultural Centre UK, SongEun Art & Cultural Foundation, Tate

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Notes to editors:

Born in 1980, **Geumhyung Jeong** is a South Korea-based choreographer, dancer and performer. Jeong studied Acting at Hoseo University in Asan, Dance and Performance at the Korean National University of Arts in Seoul, and Animation Film at the Korean Academy of Film Arts in Seoul. Her works have been presented at the Atelier Hermès, Seoul; New Museum Triennial, New York; Zürcher Theater Spektakel, Zürich; Brigittines International Festival, Brussels; SPIELART Festival, Munich; ImPulsTanz Festival, Vienna; iDANS Festival, Istanbul; Contemporary Art Museum of Ujazdowski, Warsaw; Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart; PACT Zollverein, Essen; and many others. Jeong was in residence at Delfina Foundation in spring 2017 in partnership with SongEun Art & Cultural Foundation.

7 ways

Where lies the boundary between the body and the machine? In seven peculiar duets with mundane objects, ranging from household appliances to mannequins, Jeong explores the potential of the human: the sensuality, power, and mutability of the body. Through dance, puppetry, and visual theatrica, Jeong enables the objects to take on an unsettling life of their own, frighteningly on the boundary between animate and inanimate, human and non-human, hallucination and reality.

Founded in 2007, **Delfina Foundation** (DF) is an independent, non-profit foundation dedicated to facilitating artistic exchange and developing creative practice through residencies, partnerships and public programming. Delfina Foundation has hosted over 300 artists, curators and writers in residence from around the world, partnering with institutions such as Tate Modern, V&A Museum, Frieze Art Fair Projects, Art Dubai and Chisenhale Gallery. Founding patron, Delfina Entrecanales CBE, generously provides a rent-free space and 40% of the Foundation's annual funding, which is complemented by individual supporters, foundations, public funding and partnerships.

Delfina Foundation's public programme of events and exhibitions fosters critical discourse on the contemporary arts in relation to everyday life. DF brings salient issues and common ideas together through recurring themes such as *The Politics of Food* and *The Public Domain*. Jeong's exhibition emerged from Delfina Foundation's thematic programme *Collecting as Practice*, which included residencies for artists and collectors exploring the psychology, philosophy and politics of collecting.