

A Ritual for Covid-19

A Community Purification Performance in Honor of the Covid Deceased



"The solitude and strength in Jin Hi's work sets us on an unexpected journey—and such exploration seems a fitting project for the times." - Marcie Hershman, *Rebecca Blunk Fund Award*

Description:

Guggenheim Composer Fellow Jin Hi Kim presents the World Premiere of her 'A Ritual for Covid-19,' a community purification performance in memory of 723,000 deaths in the USA and over 4.5 million deaths worldwide during the pandemic. The work is inspired by Korean Shamanistic *ssitkimkut* ritual that purifies the deceased spirit. Kim creates a live interactive performance on the world's only electric komungo processing over 300 projected images reflective of the coronavirus pandemic. These images from around the world tell a deeply moving story of death and survival as a 25-yards white cloth symbolically used in a shaman ritual is unfurled to release the spirit of overwhelming grief. The six sections of Kim's work articulate the enormous tragedy, grieving, praying, and finally purification as a protest the anti-Asian bias that resulted from Covid. This performance is in the spirit of healing of the apocalyptic years of 2020-21. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IWxIFATaXo>

"Her unique vision blends science fiction images, state-of-the-art technology, ancient mythology and timeless music and dance traditions. No other artist is doing work quite like this, and she does it with superb style." Joseph McLellan, *The Washington Post*

A Ritual for Covid-19 was made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts' New Work New England program, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Seedlings Foundation, the Fund for the Arts at NEFA, and individual donors. This project is supported by the Rebecca Blunk Fund.

A Ritual for Covid-19 was developed in CultureHub and La MaMa's Experiments in Digital Storytelling Program. A live stream between Los Angeles, Seoul and New York was produced by CultureHub through the Korea Foundation. The live performances of A Ritual for Covid-19 are supported by the Artist Fellowship from the Connecticut Office of the Arts, US-China Music Institute at Bard College; WPKN-FM through Connecticut Humanities Quick Grant, and a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant;

Epsilon Spire through New England State Touring Grant; Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts, Music Department, Albritton Center for the Study of Public, and Academic Affairs Arts and Humanities.



About Jin Hi Kim: www.jinhikim.com

Creative Team:

Conceived by Jin Hi Kim

Music Composition and Performance: Jin Hi Kim (electric *komungo*, *buk*, and voice)

Stage and Lighting Design: Joe Levasseur

Projection Design: Sangmin Chae, and Jorge Morales Pico

Covid-19 documentary photo collection and organizing: Jin Hi Kim

CultureHub/New York Creative Team:

Lead Technician: DeAndra Anthony

Creative Technology: Sangmin Chae

Video Production Coordinator: Jean Garcia



Community Participation:

Eight participants: four participants on the stage holding the 25-yard white cloth during the performance. Audience will be humming for grieving during the performance. During humming, in the audience, four participants will be playing singing bowls. Above eight participants must participate in a dress rehearsal and a performance.



Upcoming Performance Schedule:

- October 13 World Premiere at Sosnoff Theater, Fisher Center, Bard College, New York
- November 5 Virtual performance at CultureHub with an internet live stream between Seoul, Los Angeles, and New York
- November 19 Live performance presented by WPKN-FM at the Bijou Theater, Bridgeport, Connecticut
- November 20 Panel discussion live broadcast by WPKN-FM at the Bijou Theater
- December 11 Live performance at Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro, Vermont
- February 18 Live performance at Crowell Concert Hall, Wesleyan University, Connecticut

Additional Musical Instruments:





Contact: Jin Hi Kim jhksource@gmail.com