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moscow
biennale
of
contemporary
art

footnotes

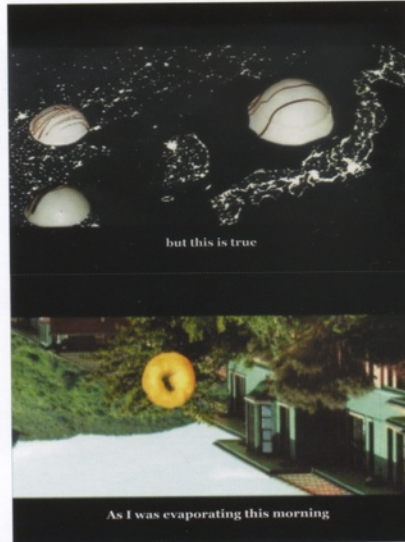
ON GEOPOLITICS,
MARKET,
AND AMNESIA

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ON GEOPOLITICS, MARKET, AND AMNESIA

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JIAE HWANG
SOUTH KOREA/USA

I Am the Smallest Planet of My Own (Labyrinth), 2004.
Digital video, 4:30 min. (looped)
Courtesy Fredric Snitzer Gallery



I Am the Smallest Planet of My Own (Storytell), 2004.
Digital video, 2:30 min.
Courtesy Fredric Snitzer Gallery



space both reflect and influence the indescribable phenomena in the universe. A foundation for my work can be found with my interest in the writings of the scientists, doctors, astronomers, astrologers and the literature of the Renaissance that shared the belief that sympathy exists between the microcosm and the macrocosm in daily life. At this time in history a battle between reason, logic and to know vs. irrational, mystery and the unknown reaches its climax and the former scientific realism delivers devastating blows to the latter supersture. The unknown becomes known and mystery becomes mechanics and laws.

SHANE HUFFMAN



While most of us look at a fingerprint and see simply a way to identify our selves from others, Jiae Hwang sees instead a swirling vortex, a galaxy forming or collapsing upon its self. The theory that we along with everything else originated from an exploding star is central to Hwang's practice. We are all "stardust", and while Hwang's work touches on the big bang theory she doesn't rest on it, she poeticizes it. In her 2004 video work "I Am the Smallest Planet of my Own", the world has no ties to gravity, donuts float alongside llamas and plastic lawn flamingos. The landscape itself has no bearing at all as the sky becomes earth and clouds glide by vertically. In this work and related animations, Hwang creates a personalized narrative spoken from the point of view that all things are possible. Hwang's is a planet where she could "finally get to keep a dolphin as a pet" and where everything is either intangibly small or massive. Having immigrated to the States from

Seoul, Korea, at the age of 13, Hwang has been raised in two very different galaxies. Her aesthetic marries the two. The pop sensibilities of a teenaged girl in America combined with softly hummed songs in her native Korean tongue. The result steers clear of nostalgia due to the fact that her life (at age 25) has essentially been bisected and her memories seem to collapse into one another forming a vocabulary all her own. "Wordless thoughts, sensations of light and emotions are all seemingly intangible, yet physically felt. These components are what define us as unique human beings, and inside of us they compose small planets of their own". Jiae Hwang, untitled statement (2004).

HERNAN BAS