

YONG SOON MIN

“Flows and Intersections in the Transnational, the Postcolonial and the Multicultural for the artist, Fung Sok Ro”

Abstract:

This article centers on the Zainichi Korean artist Fung Sok Ro who I initially met and included in the 2002 Gwangju Biennale exhibition, *THERE: Sites of Korean Diaspora*. His participation in the gallery tour/talk and the symposium that was held in conjunction with the exhibition became his first trip ever, outside Japan, to Korea, involving a complicated, special arrangement with Republic of Korea for a “stateless” person to obtain a pass to travel there. This significant visit led Ro thereafter to get a South Korean passport. Ro, like other Zainichi Koreans, has faced several decisions that became major material and psychic transformations in his life and his identity. As an ethnic Korean born in Japan, he has negotiated a challenging path that chose not to become a naturalized Japanese, refused to be affiliated with Mindan that is supported by South Korea, but with ambivalence, traverses alongside Chongryun identity. Through it all, Ro continues to explore and define his subjectivity through his vibrant art practice.

Representative works:

“*THERE: Sites of Korean Diaspora*”

Catalogue edited by Yong Soon Min, Gwangju Biennale Foundation, 2002

“*XEN: Migration Labor and Identity*,” 2004

Catalogue edited by Yong Soon Min, Ssamzie Space, 2004

“*transPOP: Korea Vietnam Remix*,”

Catalogue edited by Yong Soon Min & Viet Le, Arko Art Center, Arts Council Korea, 2008