SOOJIN PRAY

RITUAL MEDIA ARTIST

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PROFILE

Soojin Pray is a Seoul-based ritual media artist working across site-responsive ritual, moving image, performance, immersive media, and embodied research. She approaches the body as a living archive and explores invisible relations among place, ancestral memory, women's histories, more-than-human presences, and digital technology. Her practice is grounded in more than twenty years of Korean dance, choreography, martial arts, and bodily training.

SELECTED PROJECTS & RESEARCH

2023 (begun) We, We Wish

Three-part ritual-media project. Vol. 1, The Tutelar Guardian of Forgotten Tales, began with an artist-led ritual and filming at Seonbawi Rock, Inwangsan Mountain, Seoul, on 1 January 2023. The source material became twelve digital relics assembled into one 10 min 45 sec single-channel moving-image work completed in 2024.

2025–ongoing Healing Tide

Site-responsive ritual performance cycle composing temporary fields of collective attention through sound, movement, breath, and place. Presented in Jeju and Seoul in 2025, and developed in 2026 as a sixteen-part cycle in an urban forest, Seoul.

2020-ongoing MOUM: The Living Archive

Long-term embodied research into Korean body-cosmology, yangsaeng, breath, movement, qi, seasonal rhythm, and everyday ritual; developed through sustained daily practice and the artist's research notebooks.

2020–ongoing Yangsaeng 養生

Moving-image series arising from the research project MOUM: The Living Archive, drawn from yangsaeng, the classical Korean practice of nurturing life through daily bodily care. Each film takes one everyday act as its subject - combing the hair, walking slowly, brightening the eyes, waking the body, a glass of water as medicine, water as the source of life. Eight works completed in 2020 with support from Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation; the series remains open.

2020 Early Ritual & Moving-Image Works

Four independent performance films — RED GOKKAL, MAGO GAIA, Circle of Life, and Incense Offering — exploring bodily memory, myth, ritual, death and renewal, and the relation between body and place.

2020–2021 Inner Exploration: A 100-Day Project

Participatory durational project in which repeated everyday movements were recorded across individual bodies and domestic spaces, later assembled as a collective moving-image and time archive with a participatory exhibition.

2024 Digital Forest Meditation Odyssey

Media-wall moving-image work exploring the relation between digital environments and embodied perception.

2023–2024 GOYO Meditation Planet

Archived XR research project exploring continuity between virtual and physical space through immersive environment and spatial sound.

2020 MAGO GAIA

Ritual performance film / moving-image work, 9 min 33 sec.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

2026 The Tutelar Guardian of Forgotten Tales, The Green Screen — International Video Art Festival of Tarragona, Mèdol · Centre d'Arts Contemporànies, Spain — selected, international open call section; screening 13 Nov

2026 MAGO GAIA (2020), LOVE-POWER-PEACE: The Future Is Now! — Selected Artist.

2026 Circle Part.1, CICA Museum, Gimpo, South Korea — international group exhibition, 19 Aug–6 Sep

2026 Healing Tide — Evening Fold: A Sea of Healing into the Forest, Eunpyeong Culture Foundation, Seoul — site-responsive ritual performance cycle, 16 iterations, urban forest

2025 Healing Tide, 2025 Culture Month Celebration, Jaguri Park, Seogwipo, Jeju — official programme

2025 Healing Tide, Artist's House, Arts Council Korea, Seoul — co-planned programme

2024 The Tutelar Guardian of Forgotten Tales, Art Korea Lab Media Wall, Seoul — solo panoramic media-wall presentation

2024 The Tutelar Guardian of Forgotten Tales, 10 Years After Ground, Gwangju — solo exhibition; twelve-tablet installation and three-hour durational performance

2024 GOYO Meditation Planet, NewImages Festival XR Market / Korea Focus, Paris

2024 Digital Forest Meditation Odyssey, Jeonju University X-ValueUp Space and Art Korea Lab D-Showroom, Seoul

RESIDENCIES & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

2024 Resident Artist & Company, Art Korea Lab, Korea Arts Management Service, Seoul

2023 XR Testbed Development Support, Art Korea Lab / Korea Arts Management Service, Seoul

GRANTS & SUPPORT

2024 International Showcase Support, Art Korea Lab / Korea Arts Management Service

2023 Art Change UP Grant, Arts Council Korea

2020 Inner Exploration: A 100-Day Project Grant, Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture

2020 Media Art Production Grant, Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation

SELECTED PERFORMANCE & MOVEMENT RESEARCH

2021 Mind Journey, SASF Seocho Art Space Festival, Seoul

2017 A Little by Little, Steadily, House of the Dancer Series, Seoul

2015 Could We Ever Change?, choreography and performance, Hong-eun Art Creation Center, Seoul

2010 The Stability of Things, Geumcheon Art Factory Opening, Seoul

2007 Sujecheon — Letter Before Heaven, choreography and performance, M Theatre, Seoul

2002–2006 International touring dancer — France, Poland, Russia, the United States, China, and Japan; productions included Simcheong and Ice River

SELECTED PRESS & TEACHING

2024 TechVangArt — feature interview and review on GOYO Meditation Planet and NewImages Festival

2023 Somatic Body & Digital Presence — artist workshop for the National Dance Company of Korea, Seoul

EDUCATION

2008 M.A. in Choreography, Korea National University of Arts, Seoul

2000 B.A. in Dance, Hansung University, Seoul

APPOINTMENT

2020–present Founder & Artistic Director, SPACE MOUM, Seoul

SELECTED LINKS

We, We Wish — Vol. 1: vimeo.com/showcase/12387974

Early Ritual & Moving-Image Works: vimeo.com/showcase/12387612

Inner Exploration — A 100-Day Project: vimeo.com/showcase/12387950

RED GOKKAL — current international master: vimeo.com/1222898612

MAGO GAIA: vimeo.com/1222480486

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