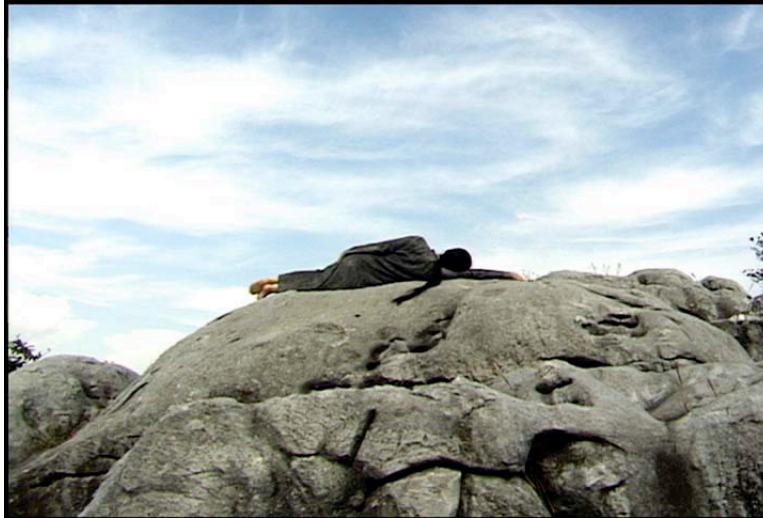


# CREATIVETIME

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## KIMSOOJA'S MEDITATIVE REFLECTIONS INTERSECT TIMES SQUARE March 10 – June 10, 2005



Kimsooja, *A Needle Woman*, Kitakyushu Courtesy Peter Blum Gallery, NY.

**(February 4, 2005 New York, NY)** Kimsooja's filmed performances exude a spiritual calmness and encourage reflection and introspection in the heart of Times Square, a place known for immediate gratification and consumerism. **From March 10 through June 10, 2005**, Creative Time and Panasonic present *Conditions of Anonymity*, one-minute segments from South Korean artist Kimsooja's lauded video works, ***A Needle Woman*** (Kitakyushu), ***A Beggar Woman*** (Cairo), and ***A Laundry Woman*** (Yamuna River, India) on *The 59<sup>th</sup> Minute: Video Art on the NBC Astrovision by Panasonic*. In each video, the artist sits, reclines, or stands completely still with her back to the viewer, illuminating the vibrancy of the various locales and the intrusions of the physical world as they occur around her.

Kimsooja's *Conditions of Anonymity* is the 21<sup>st</sup> artwork presented in Creative Time's *The 59<sup>th</sup> Minute* series. The program provides an exceptional opportunity for emerging, established, local, and international artists to present their video art to the public within the context of the world's nexus of media culture.

### PERFORMANCE AND ONE-HOUR SCREENING FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005 2 P.M. – 3 P.M. TIMES SQUARE (BROADWAY AND 44<sup>TH</sup> STREET)

In conjunction with the videos presented on *The 59<sup>th</sup> Minute*, Kimsooja extends her artistic practice and takes on the role of choreographer to direct a group performance for the first time. Forty performers bring the *Beggar Woman* series to life in Times Square by mimicking Sooja's own figure from the videos, impassive among the masses, with hand outstretched. The performers stand steady, without acting or reacting, prompting questions about the intentions of a beggar who refuses to take money or respond to the

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curious crowd. In working with numerous performers, the artist examines the impact of interaction and visual repetition on bystanders in a large metropolis. Throughout this and previous works, Sooja investigates inverting the concept of the performer, as the artist becomes an egoless conduit through which viewers can ascertain meaning. A one-hour screening of Sooja's videos will play concurrently on the Astrovision screen.

## VIDEO

Kimsooja's desire to explore the varied characteristics of human relations transported her to cities around the globe with vast cultural and physical differences to film the video series. For *A Beggar Woman*, Sooja visited eight diverse urban centers including Cairo, Delhi, Shanghai, and Tokyo. In each destination, the artist replicates an identical pose—hand extended in a gesture reminiscent of homelessness and begging—while sitting static with her back to the camera. As crowds of people in the video look on with mounting interest at Sooja's figure and attempt to avert her gaze, we are left to contemplate broader themes of human interaction and poverty.

In *A Needle Woman (Kitakyushu)*, Sooja's lone figure is seen lying on her side on a high rocky ledge. Every subtlety of the shifting landscape — the sky brightens and darkens as the sun dips behind the gently rolling clouds, the branches of a tree flutter, Sooja's dress flaps lightly in the wind — comes into sharp focus in contrast to the artist's motionless body. In this serene, contemplative scene, the human figure and nature fuse and a sense of timelessness emerges.

Sooja stands facing the Yamuna River in India as birds fly by and ashes float slowly downstream, in the excerpt of the third video, *A Laundry Woman*. Here, she appears at once firmly anchored to and disjointed from the constantly moving rhythm of the setting. When projected in the heart of New York City for *The 59<sup>th</sup> Minute*, Sooja's artwork lays bare the plight of the individual lost in an urban center and our complicated human relationship with the earth.

*The 59<sup>th</sup> Minute* airs daily in Times Square on the NBC Astrovision by Panasonic on the last minute of every hour from 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m., except between 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at 45<sup>th</sup> Street and the intersection of Broadway and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## THE ARTIST

Kimsooja's work is a combination of video, performance, and sculpture that grapples with the intersection of people, places, and culture. Born in 1957 in Taegu, Korea, she currently lives and works in New York and is represented by Peter Blum Gallery, New York City. She studied in the Graduate Painting Department of Hong-Ik University in Seoul and at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Sooja was included in the Whitney Biennial, 2002. A selection of solo shows include: *Kimsooja: Bottari-Cologne*, 2005; *Marking Time*, The Getty Center, Los Angeles, 2005; *Kimsooja: Seven Wishes and Secrets*, MIT List Gallery Cambridge, 2003; *A Needle Woman*, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, 2001; *A Laundry Woman*, Kunststalle Wien, 2002, and *dAPERTutto*: The 48th Venice Biennale, Venice, 1999. Sooja has received critical attention and major reviews in numerous publications including *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *ARTnews*, *The New York Times*, and *Art Press*.

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## CREATIVE TIME and THE 59<sup>TH</sup> MINUTE

From Times Square, the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, Coney Island, the skies over Manhattan with *Tribute in Light* and cloud skywriting, to storefronts, milk cartons, deli cups, and billboards, Creative Time has worked with artists for the past 33 years to invigorate the urban landscape and enliven New York City.

*The 59<sup>th</sup> Minute*, launched in 2000, fulfilled Tibor Kalman's wish for his "Tiborisms" to be broadcast in Times Square. Since then, the last minute of every hour has featured work by the artists Marco Brambilla, Fischli & Weiss, William Kentridge, Bruce and Norman Yonemoto, Jeff Gibson, Gary Hill, Genvieve Cadieux, Mary Lucier, Michael Snow, William Wegman, Thomas Struth, Jeremy Blake, Marina Zurkow, Scott Paterson, Julian Bleecker, Janaina Tschape, Hiraki Sawa, The Neistat Brothers, Günther Selichar, and Carlos Amorales.

## PANASONIC

The NBC Astrovision by Panasonic is the visual centerpiece of New York City's Times Square, the "Crossroads of the World." Measuring nearly three stories high and four stories wide, the screen, which contains 1.5 million light-emitting diodes (LEDs), is capable of displaying more than one billion shades of color. Each year, millions of people see the Astrovision either on television, in the movies, or when they visit Times Square. And every New Year's Eve, the landmark video screen helps more than 500,000 Times Square revelers count down the famous ball drop. Panasonic is the best known brand of New Jersey-based Matsushita Electric Corporation of America, which is the principal North American subsidiary of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (MEI) (NYSE: MC). Additional information can be found by visiting [www.panasonic.com](http://www.panasonic.com).

## TIMES SQUARE ALLIANCE

Founded in 1992, the Times Square Alliance works to improve and promote Times Square so that it retains the creativity, energy, and edge that have made it an icon for entertainment, culture, and international urban life for a century. In addition to providing safety and sanitation services, the Alliance co-ordinates numerous major events in Times Square like New Year's Eve, manages an Information Center, and advocates on behalf of its constituents with respect to a host of public policy, planning, and quality-of-life issues.

## SUPPORT

*Conditions of Anonymity* is presented by Creative Time and Panasonic on the NBC Astrovision by Panasonic Screen in Times Square. Creative Time presents the live performance with support from the Times Square Alliance. Creative Time is funded through the generous support of corporations, foundations, government agencies, and individuals. This program was made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency; New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, New York City Council Member Christine C. Quinn; and State Senator Thomas K. Duane.

Special thanks to Peter Blum Gallery, New York, and Jonathan Goodman for the title, *Conditions of Anonymity*.