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The Care of the Self: *Journals and Letters*

Taeyoon Choi

2020.06.04 - 06.28

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1. Exhibition Summary

TITLE The Care of the Self: Journals and Letters

ARTIST Taeyoon Choi

DATES 2020.06.04. (Thu) - 06.28. (Sun)

*Opening event will not take place in efforts to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

HOURS Tue-Sun, 11am - 7pm (Closed on Mondays)

PRESENTED BY factory2

SPONSORED BY Art Council Korea

#TaeyoonChoi #TheCareoftheSelf #factory2

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2. About the Exhibition

The factory2 presents Taeyoon Choi's solo exhibition **The Care of the Self : Journals and Letters** from June 4 through 28, 2020. Taeyoon Choi is an artist, educator, and activist based in New York and Seoul. His art practice involves performance, electronics, drawings, and installations and seeks a sense of gentleness, magnanimity, justice, and solidarity, and intellectual kinship.

The Care of the Self : Journals and Letters will feature original works on paper by Taeyoon Choi. The works address the concepts of identity, environment, learning and education, technology and progress under the themes of 'THE SELF', 'CARE', 'COMPUTATION', 'HABITAT', 'UNLEARNING'. The journals and the letters addressed to his family, friends, and collaborators, oftentimes combining intimate messages with public statements that explore the underlying question: "**can we think of doing self-care that's not selfish-care? can we care for ourselves in order to care for the world around us?**" The works presented in this exhibition are made in New York, Hong Kong and various other places the artist travelled between 2019 and 2020. They explore the sense of self in response to a rapidly changing world – for example, political agency and social movement in response to the Hong Kong Protests, racism against Asians in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, and unpacks the concepts of ableism, disability justice and body neutrality.

The exhibition is an ongoing collaboration with the artist and the factory2 that began with the exhibition *Your Friend: Collaboration and Correspondence* in 2015. A series of online public events and artist talk will be hosted via web platforms throughout June, 2020. Information on the events will be posted on the factory2's website(factory483.org) and the instagram(@factory2.seoul).

3. Artist Note

To care for oneself.
Let's begin carefully.
Look into ourselves closely.

Everyone experiences some type of disappointment. Everyone remembers getting hurt by other people. It's natural that people want to avoid such memories. Now, let's look at our mistakes and shortcomings with a warm heart. Let's try to become better friends to ourselves by untangling the hurt feelings. Untangle the disappointments and exhaustion, one by one. Find peace with yourself and become a better friend to yourself.

True self-care is not selfish-care. It is to love others by loving ourselves. It is to become responsible for our environment. These positive types of self-care often lead into a sense of social justice, caring for the others. There is no individual without the community; there is no community without the individual. There are special kinds of connections between people, something that is neither friendship or kinship. That sense of belonging is similar to Donna Haraway's notion of 'Oddkins.' Let's consider our oddkins as a distributed web of care.

Everyone has a unique garden in their heart. There are many types of plants in the garden. Some people take good care of the garden and others let the plants grow on their own. Now, consider what types of plants, animals, objects and people live in your garden, and how the time flows there.

[Taeyoon Choi | 2020.05.]

4. About the Artist

Taeyoon Choi

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Taeyoon Choi is an artist, educator, and activist based in New York and Seoul. His art practice involves performance, electronics, drawings, and installations. He has published artists' books, including 'Urban Programming 101' and 'Anti-Manifesto.' Choi's solo exhibitions include Speakers Corners, Eyebeam Art and Technology Center, New York (2012); My friends, there is no friend, Spanien 19C, Aarhus (2011); and When Technology Fails, Reality Reveals, Art Space Hue, Seoul (2007). His projects were presented at the Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai (2012) and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2015). Choi was an artist in residence at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Workspace, New York (2014), The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh (2014) and at Art Center Nabi, Seoul (2006). He received commissions from Art +Technology Lab, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LA (2014) and SeMA Biennale Mediacity Seoul (2016). He curated Resistance and Resilience at Usdan Gallery, Bennington College, Vermont (2012) and directed Making Lab at Anyang Public Art Project, Anyang (2013). Choi holds a B.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a M.S. from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. He teaches at the Interactive Telecommunications Program in the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. He contributed to alternative education such as the Public School New York, Occupy University and Triple Canopy Publication Intensive. In 2013, Choi co-founded the School for Poetic Computation where he continues to organize sessions and teach classes on electronics, drawings, and social practice. In 2019, Taeyoon worked with Mimi Onuoha to start the New York Tech Zine Fair, with support from Ritu Ghiya and Neta Bomani. He also collaborated with Nabil Hassein and Sonia Boller to organize the Code Ecologies conference about the environmental impact of technology. As a disability justice organizer, Taeyoon continues to work with the Deaf and Disability community towards accessibility and inclusion. Taeyoon seeks a sense of gentleness, intellectual kinship, magnanimity, justice and solidarity in his work and collaboration.

5. Related Programs

A series of online public events and artist talk will be hosted via web platforms throughout June, 2020. Information on the events will be posted on the factory2's website(factory483.org) and the instagram(@factory2.seoul).

Workshop 01

Mind Drawing Workshop

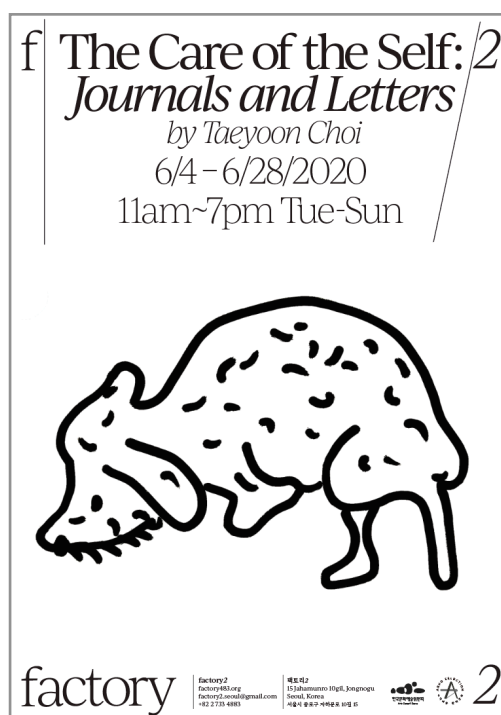
May 26, 2020 7~8:30 PM KST

Taeyoon Choi will lead 90 minutes of reflective drawing sessions for remote participants. The online workshop will explore the themes of the self and the practice of care. Taeyoon will prompt participants to creatively think about themselves as a caretaker and care-receiver.

Can drawings become an act of care? In times of unforeseen hardship due to COVID-19, our lives have been altered in dramatic ways. As we endure the prolonged isolation, drawing can be a way to reconnect with ourselves and others. Drawing our memories, minds and hopes can be a way of finding peace in a turbulent time. Taeyoon Choi has been exploring the concept, along with the practice of unlearning through alternative education, performance and technical research. In this workshop, Taeyoon will focus on the definition of unlearning as an act of reconciliation: by drawing our loss and darkness, we can establish better relationships with ourselves, others, the critters and the environment.

Mind Drawing Workshop is part of Taeyoon Choi's exhibition *The Care of the Self: Journals and Letters*. The exhibition will be on view at *factory2* in Seoul from June 4 through 28. To participate in the workshop, please follow factory2's instagram(@factory2.seoul).

6. Posters



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7. Reference Images

- World which Worlds a Caring World, 2020, Drawing by Taeyoon Choi(Top Left)
- Distributed Web of Care, 2019, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Photo by Minu Han (Top Right)
- Distributed Web of Care, 2019, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Photo by Filip Wolak (Bottom)

