

360° VR Essay Film

# Floating Walk - Gangnam Kangaroo



Directed by Sojung Bahng

**2017**

*“Everything is connected and changing.”*



## Logline

A Korean woman, living in Australia, goes on a journey of self-confrontation to trace the root of her unclear but painful emotion; then realizes that historical and political traumas, such as Korean war, have greatly affected the lives of her family members as well as her identity.

## Synopsis

Sojung, a female Korean artist, has recently arrived in Melbourne, Australia. Upon her arrival, she begins to suffer from feelings of loneliness and anxiety. Feeling as if her identity is completely fragmented in the new city, she tries to reexamine her identity. Sojung decides to find her mirror images of herself that show her reflection and reveal her identity. She meets a Korean woman, Sunny, who works at a Korean restaurant in Melbourne. Sojung starts to see herself from Sunny's perspective and finds that they have experienced similar pains as Korean women. Sojung returns to Korea to trace her memories and realizes she has been alienating herself to survive in an extremely competitive and oppressive society. For a deeper understanding of her identity, she examines her family history and ascertains that historical and political traumas, such as Korean War, have greatly affected the lives of her family members as well as her own identity.



*“Using 360° VR, I invited audiences to participate in exploring virtual and floating identities.”*



## **Director’s Statement**

I tried to explore the relationship between fragmented self-identity and societies through my personal history. I revealed the difficulty of protecting and searching our own identity in oppressive societies. At the same time, I showed the beauty and value of having awareness of identity as a shifting, dynamic construct and the pursuit of self-growth.

In 360° VR, audience can embody the spaces of two different countries, but they are positioned as floating selves in the physical space and the virtual space. Due to the duality of presence that they present, they physically empathize with the process of questioning identity and critically examine their own identity while they are in the virtual world.

*“360° video is an effective device for self-confrontation and reflection.”*



## **Director's Note**

I used the handiest 360° camera called a Richo-Theta S. Since I only used a very small camera, I could bring it anywhere and film anytime. Because of this, I could capture very intimate and private scenes without having people rarely noticed the existence of the camera.

Using a 360° camera was very helpful for the process of creating an autobiographical work, since I could see myself from a virtual space perspective, a point of view I had never experienced. I could observe myself without framing and filtering, and it gave me stronger awareness about myself than I expected. I think that 360° video can be an effective device for self-confrontation and self-reflection not only for audiences but also for creators.

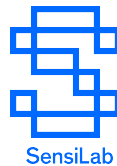
## Specifications

Country of Production Australia and South Korea  
Running Time 14min 57sec  
Format HD  
Audio Mono

## Credits

Director Sojung Bahng  
Assistant Director Sunny Jeon  
Artistic Director Rooni Lee  
Composer RIMI  
Sound Advisor Patrick Hutchings  
Supervisors Jon McCormack  
Vince Dziekan

Supported by SensiLab  
Artengine



## **Director Bio**

Sojung Bahng is an artist and researcher working with new media film and multi-disciplinary art projects. She is a PhD candidate at the Monash university in Melbourne. She has worked on diverse media and art projects as an artist, curator and director. Sojung has been conducting creative research on the historical, social and philosophical contexts of media and cultural studies. She is developing original media systems with digital technologies to reflect aesthetic experiences through new media.

## **Contact**

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