

# Verbotene Bilder

[Banned Images] - Control and Censorship in East Asian Democracies

18 April – 14 June 2015

**Chieh-jen CHEN, Ching-Yao CHEN, Sung-dam HONG, Katsuhisa NAKAGAKI, Sunmu, Taeko TOMIYAMA**

At the last minute, the specialist art transport company commissioned for the job refused to transport the works of Sung-dam HONG and Sunmu to Germany. During the exhibition opening, the two artists will portray this act of anticipatory obedience in an artistic performance.

In the international view, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan are considered to be democratic states governed by the rule of law, not least because they acquired this title during the Cold War. There is, however, only limited recognition of the fact that in all three countries the state does not view freedom of expression as an inalienable right and that the monitoring or censorship of critical art and repressive measures taken against awkwardly critical artists are not uncommon. The reasons for this are deep-rooted and entrenched – in Japan the failure to come to terms with the imperial past and the taboos surrounding the person of the Emperor, in South Korea the adversarial stance towards North Korea, and in Taiwan the state's ideological rivalry with the People's Republic of China.

The exhibition *Verbotene Bilder* presents works whose aesthetic ambiguities are not only a provocation to this schematic opposition in East Asian consciousness but also relativize the artistic and art-historic perception for Western eyes, which have adopted the over-simplified polarizations.

Invitations were extended to two artists from each of the three countries, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The chosen artists all have a critical stance on the politics and taboos of their respective countries, are concerned for freedom of expression, human rights and coming to terms with the sensitive issues of the past, and do not shy away from the social and political conclusions inherent in their work.

**A catalogue will be printed by the nGbK publishing house. ISBN: 978-3-938515-58-7**

Friday, 17 April 2015, 19h  
Opening and performance by Sung-dam HONG and Sunmu  
***Untragbare Bilder [Insupportable Images]***

Sunday, 19 April, 15h  
Japanische Fraueninitiative Berlin presents  
**Lecture by Hiroko SAKAMOTO on female cartoonists in colonial and modern Shanghai and in wartime – from a post-colonial perspective**  
(Japanese-German)

Wednesday, 22 April 2015, 19h  
**Artist talk with Sung-dam HONG and Taeko TOMIYAMA**  
(German-Japanese-Korean)

Wednesday, 7 May 2015, 10-20h  
**Conference**  
***Die deutsche Eiche im Yasukuni-Schrein – 70 Jahre Kriegsende und die langen Schatten der Vergangenheit in Ostasien und Europa [The German Oak in the Yasukuni Shrine – 70 years after the end of the War and the long shadows of the past in East Asia and Europe]***

Werkstatt der Kulturen  
Wissmannstraße 32, 12049 Berlin  
Film, talk with contemporary witnesses, lectures, panel discussion  
Registration: anti-yasukuni@ngbk.de  
(German-Japanese-Korean)

Sunday, 17 May 2015, 10h  
**Guided tour with Sung-dam HONG**  
in memory of the “Gwangju Massacre”  
of 18 May 1980  
(Korean)

Wednesday, 20 May 2015, 17h  
**Guided tour with Sung-dam HONG**  
(German-Korean)

Sunday, 24 May 2015, 15h  
Japanische Fraueninitiative Berlin presents  
**Lecture by Hiroko HAGIWARA on the artist Taeko TOMIYAMA**  
(Japanese-German)

Saturday, 30 May 2015, 17h  
**Lecture by Vladimir Tikhonov**  
***Freedom of Expression: Illusions and Realities***  
(English)  
20h  
**Reading and music by Peter Ehwald and Ensemble ~su**  
***Familiensaga >Land<, Bd. 1-4 von Kyongni PAK***  
Lange Buchnacht in der Oranienstraße  
(German-Korean)

**nGbK project group:**

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