

5100 Pentagon

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Block Universe, Performing Arts Festival, Royal Academy, London
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Outline:

5100 Pentagon was constructed based on a web-tutorial available to be accessed by anonymous groups of participants through an open call on social media. The project re actualises the violent Gwangju Uprising on 18th May 1980, which marked the beginning of the democracy movement in South Korea. 5100 Pentagon is an unexplored period in history reinterpreted as an embodied moment in the present, it is performed repetitively yet differently by participants in each new iteration.

Several factors influenced and re contextualised the London performance - unlike Gwangju Biennale it was a single event, removed from the immediate context of Korean history, and most significantly the London Bridge attacks had occurred the day before, psychologically impacting the city and the participants. The terrorist attack became the frame of reference, bringing a heightened engagement among the flash mob performers, a spontaneous, collective consciousness actualising a seminal moment in history when freedom of expression was brutally crushed, through an embodied, collective expression of empathy and resistance to oppression in the present.