



School: School of Art

Researcher: Young In Hong

Project Title: In Her Dream

UOA: 32

300-Word Statement

Commissioned by *fig-2* and staged at the ICA theatre in 2015, **In Her Dream** was a live multidisciplinary and intercultural performance, responding to global gender inequality, with particular socio political references to post war South Korea.

Developed alongside an installation in the ICA studio, and inspired by the true story of Kim Bu Nam who murdered her rapist and forced new laws against domestic violence **In Her Dream** explores the means to express the intensity of experience behind violent female repression and protest, as well as the traumatic pace of modernisation in Korea, through music and movement. Hongs research asks 3 questions:

1. How might a specific historical narrative be reinterpreted through non linear, non linguistic performance and also serve as an homage to the oppressed and underrepresented?
2. How might a score system combining opposite cross cultural styles of music impact the reading of the performance?
3. Can the complex aesthetics of Baroque, provide an appropriate metaphoric tool to translate the intensity and pace of Korean modernisation?

Collaborating with choreographers and dancers, to improvise gestures and movements from archival photos of female protesters, Hong charged the non linear, non linguistic performance with a Baroque aesthetic heightening the drama to hyperbolic, operatic effect, to convey experienced emotional intensity.

Set between 2 separate stages **In Her Dream** combined contrasting elements visually, musically, and contextually, drawing together the opposites of opulent Baroque, Western musical traditions and ritualistic Korean shamanic music and dance styles, such as Salpuri.

An initial 10 week thematic residency, *Performance as Process*, run by Delfina Foundation facilitated a period of intense research and experimentation. For Hong this was vital in the development of a unique inter cultural musical effect and visual aesthetic, necessary to serve as metaphorical tool in expressing the intensity of socio political and cultural trauma.