

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Younhee Paik Returns to the Bay Area and The Office Gets Its Own Show**  
*The San Jose ICA Announces its 2012 Spring Exhibition Schedule*



**SAN JOSE, CA – January 2012** – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) storms out of the 2012 exhibition gate with three compelling new shows that fire on all media cylinders. The California premiere of *Ascending River*, an immersive ceiling and floor installation by painter Younhee Paik, opens on March 3rd and runs through May 12th. *The Office*, a conceptually rich

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and thoroughly entertaining group show by artists who examine, deconstruct and rearrange contemporary office culture is on view from March 10<sup>th</sup> through June 2<sup>nd</sup>. And *4x4*, a presentation of four works by four video artists will be on view from March 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 2<sup>nd</sup>. An Opening Reception for all three exhibitions will be held on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm.

***Younhee Paik: Ascending River***

**March 3 – May 12, 2012**

**in the Focus Gallery**

The ICA presents *Ascending River*, Younhee Paik's site-specific installation of large-scale painted canvases – part of a series of contemplative, restful works created as a tribute to the artist's late mother. Although Paik has exhibited her work extensively throughout the Bay Area, this presentation marks the first time that *Ascending River* will be shown in California.

Paik's dynamic, unframed paintings are hung from the ceiling like sails and laid out under a plexiglass-covered floor, enveloping the viewer in an immersive other-worldly environment. The works are complex in color and texture and filled with motifs of light that seem to radiate from the canvases. Celestial and water imagery abound, as



do recurring imagery of ships and architectural drawings of cathedral floor plans. Through the use of these images, Paik makes a connection between the world of experience and the world of the unknown while challenging our conventional notions of space and time. The installation also includes a place for the viewer to lie down, relax, and listen to music with headphones.

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Younhee Paik was born in Seoul, Korea and immigrated to the U.S. in 1968 after receiving her B.F.A. from Seoul National University. Paik received her M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1973 and continued to live in San Francisco for 30 years, working as an artist and raising her family. Today she travels extensively and maintains studios in New York City, San Francisco, and Seoul. Paik has exhibited her work since the mid 1970s with solo exhibits throughout the U. S. and Korea, including the Staller Center for the Arts at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY; LASCA Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; and TOTAL Museum, Seoul, Korea. Paik's group shows include, *Tiger's Tail*, 1996 Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; *Rediscovering the American Landscape*, Gerald Peter Gallery, Santa Fe, NM; the Schneider Museum of Art at Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon; and the National Museum of Modern Art, Mexico City, Mexico. Paik's work can also be found in collections around the globe including the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea; the San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA; and the Korea Exchange Bank, New York, NY.

*Ascending River* is presented as part of the ICA's *Sandbox* program that provides opportunities for artists to create ambitious large-scale installations. The *Sandbox* program was created in 2007 to fulfill core value of the ICA's mission – giving emerging and mid-career artists opportunities to take risks in their artmaking and expand their creative practices. Past *Sandbox* projects include; Chris Dorosz, *The Painted Room* (2009); Christel Dillbohner, *Ice Floe* (2009), Modesto Covarrubias, *Liminal* (2010) and Mike Rathbun, *Urgency* (2011).

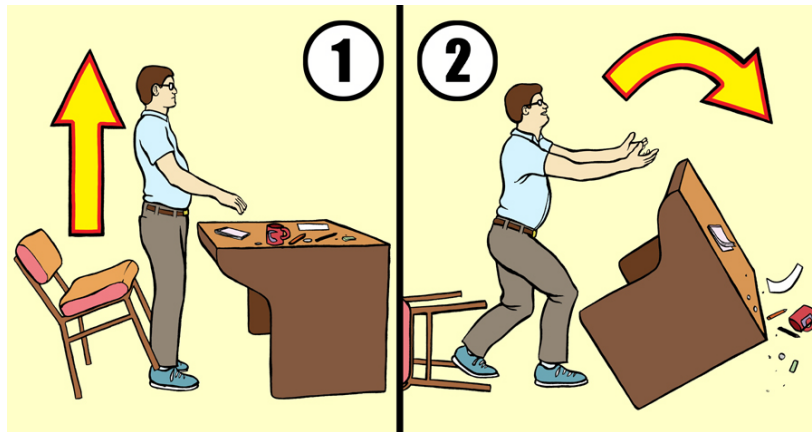
[Watch video interview and scenes of Paik working in her studio.](#)

## ***The Office***

**March 10 – June 2, 2012**

**in the Main Gallery**

*The Office* presents works by artists who examine, deconstruct, rearrange, and critique



contemporary office culture.

Exhibiting artists include; Fritzie Brown, Alex Clausen, Kirk Crippens, Lauren DiCioccio, Mitra Fabian, Alison Foshee, Jonn Herschend, Packard Jennings, Jill Sylvia, Ian Treasure, and Penny Young.

Like its television series namesake, *The Office* explores the absurdity and artistry of objects, ecosystems, culture and characters familiar to office works everywhere. Jill Sylvia's meticulously cut ledger paper structures transform a nearly extinct material into elegant sculptures. Penny Young turns her obsession with organizational systems - library card catalogs, rolodexes, office files- into works that are liberated from structure and express chaos and absurdity. Kirk Crippens creates photo portraits of the ubiquitous office plant. Mitra Fabian and Alison Foshee explore the artistic potential of staples and binder clips. Packard Jennings appropriates the standard business reply envelope with his unique interventionist approach, and Jonn Herschend responds with an installation that threatens (or promises) to disrupt the ICA's own office practices.

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**4x4**

**March 3 – June 2, 2012**

**in the Cardinale Project Room**

As part of the ICA's commitment to create more opportunities to showcase the work of video artists, four stop-motion videos will be presented during a four month period in the ICA Project Room. Each video will be on view for one month beginning in March with a video by San Francisco artist Kate Nartker who creates frames of woven textiles to create her short films. Works by Bay Area artists Vanessa Woods, Sarah Klein, and Ezra Wube will also be presented.



Also on view in the ICA's front windows through July 2012 is a vinyl installation by San Jose artist Emanuela Harris-Sintamarian, entitled *Everything Is In Motion*. The ICA has been activating its front windows with installations since 2007.

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## Images:

Younhee Paik, *Ascending River*, Installation view, Daejeon, South Korea, 2005, acrylic on canvas, plexiglass, Courtesy of the Artist

Younhee Paik, *Trojan Forum*, 2005, Acrylic on canvas, 96 inches x 142 inches, Courtesy of the Artist

Packard Jennings, *Business Reply Pamphlet*, (detail), 2006, Pigment print, ed. 25, Courtesy of the Artist and Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco

Sarah Klein, *Housecoat*, (image still), 2010, video, Courtesy of the Artist

The ICA gratefully acknowledges support from the Adobe Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Endowment (an advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation), the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and members of the ICA. The ICA is also supported in part by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose and by a grant from Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council.

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is an energetic art space located in downtown San Jose dedicated to making contemporary art accessible and exciting to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Exhibitions are presented in three galleries that display the most current, relevant and often challenging art from the region, the nation and the world. The ICA is activated by opening receptions, monthly gallery walks, programming in the front windows, panel discussions, printmaking workshops, brown bag lunches and impromptu conversations in the galleries.

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