Morning! is thirteen minutes of push-and-pull between a protagonist and a director. A gray room is fraught with tension, and a man broods over breakfast and suspects that everything has been arranged in his still-life world. He sits, a Bresson-esque model, noting the perfect framing of the shot and holding his cigarette just so. The room is a scene, which unfolds into a stage, which reveals itself to an audience, which applauds and laughs in unison as if to a script. This is an expansion of uncertain reality, caught in itself and unsure where it ends and who its participants are—a tinkle of silverware, the chirping of birds, a charcoal forest—until the protagonist (or so we thought) rises and exits, locking the flimsy door behind him.

— Philip Tinari

CHEN ZHOU (b. 1987, Zhejiang Province, China) graduated from the Digital Media Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, in 2009. Working primarily in video, his artistic practice involves, among other topics, the investigation of the relationship between visual perception and the symbols and signs of language-based imagery. Chen Zhou is a founding member of the video art collective 3 Minute Group, as well as a member of the artist collective Company, which includes Yan Xing, Li Ming, and Li Ran. Shortly after completing his degree, Chen was given a solo exhibition at Platform China Contemporary Art Institute Space, Beijing (2009). He has exhibited and screened his works internationally at venues such as Photo Taipei, Taiwan (2009), and the 1st and 2nd E-Arts Shanghai, China (2007-08). Chen was a guest lecturer at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing for their China New Design series, where he screened his film Morning! as well as footage of himself at work. Chen currently lives and works in Beijing, China.

PHILIP TINARI (b. 1979, Philadelphia, PA) is director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, China’s leading independent museum of contemporary art. Since 2009 he has also served as founding editor-in-chief of LEAP, the international art magazine of contemporary China. Tinari is a contributing editor to Artforum and adjunct professor at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts. Tinari is based in Beijing, China.
“In June 2000, after fifty years of division, the first North-South summit took place. For the first time since the war, a direct flight between the two Koreas was inaugurated. President Kim Dae-jung and the South Korean delegation flew from Seoul to Pyongyang. At that time, I was given sponsorship by a TV station to do something with the unedited source footage of this event. The video’s soundtrack is taken from the beginning of the renowned composer Isang Yun’s 1977 Double Concerto, which was inspired by the myth of the tragic lovers Gyeonu and Jiknyeo in Korean folklore. According to the myth, the King of Heaven punishes the couple’s lack of diligence by stranding one of them on a star in the west and the other on a star in the east. The couple, using first the Milky Way to bridge the distance, and then, when the King puts an end to this ruse, using a bridge of birds who take pity on them, succeeds in reuniting for one day a year, on July 7. Yun compared this myth to North-South relations.”

Excerpted from the artist’s statement Flying (for Premiere)

—Sun Jung Kim

PARK CHAN-KYONG (b. 1965, Seoul, South Korea) received his BFA from the College of Fine Art, Seoul National University, South Korea, and received his MFA in Photography from the California Institute of Fine Arts, Los Angeles. He is known for his work in film and photography, as well as for utilizing these mediums to address political and cultural issues pertaining to his native Korea. Park has held solo exhibitions at numerous venues including many galleries in Seoul, such as PKM Gallery | Bartleby Bickle & Meursault (2010), Atelier Hermès (2008), SSamzie Art Space (2005), and Kumho Museum (1997). His work was selected for the Bright Future section of the Rotterdam Film Festival, The Netherlands (2011), and the 61st Berlin International Film Festival, Germany (2009), where his film Paranajang was granted the short-film section’s prestigious Golden Bear award. Other festivals and group shows include Trust, Media City, Seoul (2010), Seoul Museum of Art (2010); Linguistic Morphology: Art in Context, the Association of East Asian Art and Culture, The Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul (2010); the 3rd Anyang Public Art Project [APAP2010], Anyang, South Korea (2010); and the 4th and 6th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea (2002, 2006).

SUN JUNG KIM (b. 1965, Seoul, South Korea) is a Seoul-based curator and director of SA MUSO : Space for Contemporary Art. Kim was co-artistic director for Gwangju Biennale 2012 and a DOCUMENTA (13) agent. From 1993 to 2004 Kim worked as the chief curator at Artsjon Center, a contemporary art center in Seoul, South Korea. She was commissioner of the Korean Pavilion at the 51st Venice Biennale, Italy (2005). In 2006 she initiated the annual contemporary art festival Platform Seoul. She co-curated Your Bright Future, an exhibition of 12 contemporary artists from Korea presented at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA, and Houston Museum of Fine Arts, TX (2009-10). Kim has curated solo exhibitions for artists such as In-Hwan Oh, Martin Creed, Beom Kim, and Haegue Yang at Artsjon Center. Kim was the artistic director of the 6th Seoul International Media Art Biennale Media City Seoul 2010. Sun currently lives and works in Seoul, South Korea.
YUKIHIRO TAGUCHI (Japan)

Selections from MOMENT, 2007–08
Courtesy the artist

Single-channel video excerpts:
Moment-performative installation, 2007
Color with no sound; 2 mins., 25 secs.
Moment-performative spazieren, 2008
Color with no sound; 4 mins., 30 secs.
Moment-making, 2007
Color with sound; 3 mins., 23 secs.

Overall running time: 10 mins., 18 secs.

Selected by MAMI KATAOKA

Yukihiro Taguchi refers to his artistic practices as “performative installation,” in which he creates a spatial installation by redefining an existing space, making incremental changes through minimal interventions; in his videos, he records these changes consecutively using stop action, altering any conventional sense of time. In his single-channel video series Moment, banal floorboards in the artist’s studio suddenly come to life and travel through the city of Berlin, representing many flexible and diverse possibilities absent from their original use. What viewers do not see here, and are left to imagine, is the artist’s painstaking labor of physically moving the floorboards between sequences. While employing a simple idea and traditional methods of producing moving images, this series of works expands the potential of single-channel video as well as of ordinary lives in playful and enjoyable ways.

—Mami Kataoka
