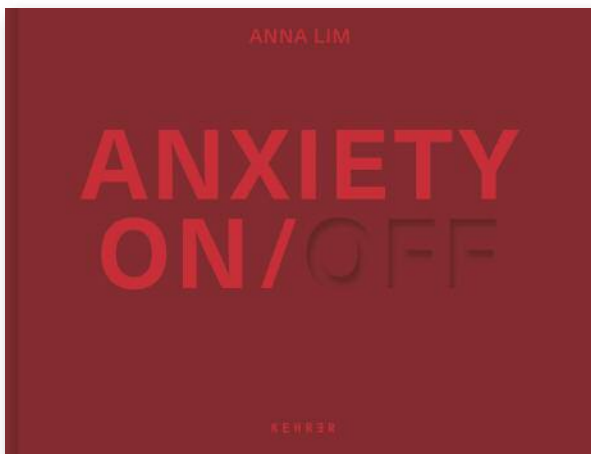


NEW RELEASE



Anna Lim Anxiety On / Off

Texts by Yeon Ha Choi, Hye Young Shin
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Anna Lim's photographic stagings show the omnipresence of anxiety in South Korea's everyday life.

South Korean photographer Anna Lim works with the assumption that we all can be involved in disaster in any time. *Anxiety On / Off* presents her recent photo series that are hovering somewhere between a disaster-preparedness drill and a complex theatrical choreography.

»The (...) series stems from insecurity in daily life caused by the media's way of dealing with terrorism including North Korea's nuclear missile news. I set up a hypothetical dystopian situation in Seoul and visualized the death anxiety with volunteers who appear as victims. We performed dramatized tragic scenes with our body language reflecting the way of the media cultivates apprehension.« (Anna Lim)

From the text by **Hyeyoung Shin:**

We live in an era, in which disasters have become a part of our daily lives. For more than a decade following the September 11 attacks in 2001, people throughout the world have been exposed to the horrors of the war and terrorist attacks on a daily basis as a result of the constant media coverage of the Iraq War and indiscriminate terrorist attacks in Europe, making them unable to be free from the resulting terror and anxiety. (...)

The photographer Anna Lim explores the anxiety latent in our society that emerges from a looming disaster that could affect anyone at any given moment. Rehearsal of Anxiety (2016–18) is a series of photographs taken of the scene of a catastrophe of unknown causes that had occurred in downtown Seoul.² It is clear that the scenes within the photographs are staged and not real, and that the people in them are also acting according to the hypothetical situation.

Taken against the backdrop of the City Hall plaza, Gwanghwamun, Seoul Station plaza, building collapse sites, and more, the project was photographed with the help of over 100 volunteers as well as makeup artists and prop and lighting crews who are professionals in the film industry. The photographer explained to the participants the situation of facing their last moment due to an unexpected disaster or becoming the last witnesses of the occurrence and arranged them to express each of their psychological states, and each participant decided on a specific situation to act out their feelings of horror and anxiety. Lovers sharing their last moment, a son who rescues his dying mother before he faces his own death, a child who weeps bitterly before his dead father, a dying photographer who manages to capture the event until the last moment—each one of them was given a different scenario.

Anna Lim (b.1970) has shown her work in many international solo and group exhibitions and has received the ILWOO Foundation Photo Award (2020), Arles Photo Portfolio Review Award (2019), among other prizes.

Her major works visualize the distribution system of media dealing with the weapons of war and the suffering of others between fiction and fact. As a creator who combines commercial studio experience and photographic theory, the pursuit of self-reflective photographic behavior become a sustainable perspective for the journey as an artist. She is currently a professor in the Department of Photography and Media at Sangmyung University in Korea.

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