

# EMBRACE OUR RIVERS

## PUBLIC.ART.AWARENESS

The main objective of the **Embrace Our Rivers - Public.Art.Awareness** programme, initiated by the Goethe Institut, Chennai in association with several partners, is to establish an emotional and techno-social connects between the Cooum and the people, the abiotic and biotic stakeholders, through the medium of Art & Technology. The programme, to be held from **15 February to 15 March 2017**, is designed to showcase the organic links among multiple stakeholders having a single objective to rejuvenate the river Cooum and integrate it in the larger canvas of the City's eco-scape. The programme aims to achieve the

objective through various activities involving different sections of society. The innovative focus will be on contemporary art forms and displays created by more than 20 artists of eminence from India and abroad including Germany, France, Korea and Netherlands. Each of the artistic exhibits will connect, convey and demonstrate the social, technological or engineering principle related to one or more aspects of water and the river Cooum. Other activities will include performances, school and college outreach programs, eco-walks, guided tours to temples and cultural sites along the Cooum.

### Embrace Our Rivers - Public.Art.Awareness

**Venue: Cooum Estuary. Marina Beach – Napier Bridge – Periyar Bridge | Date: 15 February to 15 March 2017**

For more information please visit <https://www.facebook.com/embraceourriverschennai/> or call T: +91 44 2833 1314, 2343

To register, please e-mail: [Herrmann.Gita@Chennai.goethe.org](mailto:Herrmann.Gita@Chennai.goethe.org) or [Seema.Massot@Chennai.goethe.org](mailto:Seema.Massot@Chennai.goethe.org)

We are delighted to present the video and photo installations of **Suyeon Yun** at the forthcoming public art event. Suyeon is committed to researching issues related to the disappearance of water and the subsequent desertification and degradation of land even while examining novel ways of spreading awareness on innovative new ways to face the enormous challenges ahead to preserve, replenish, re-use and safeguard the precious resource.

The following works by Suyeon Yun will be on display during the forthcoming programme:

### BEFORE THE RAIN

DOCUMENTARY FILM

Aiming at site-specific research and installation in Chennai, Suyeon Yun aims to work with Idambai Duraiswamy who has been planting trees along the coast of Seruthur for more than a decade. Her efforts began after the Indian Ocean Tsunami hitting the area resulted in the loss of her daughter and severe deforestation. The tsunami also highlighted how natural vegetation like mangroves and coral reefs significantly reduce the devastation caused by storms and waves. Suyeon will research and produce a short film on Idambai and the trees that she has planted in order to highlight what we are likely to face in the future.

### COMING FOREST

FULL HD SINGLE CHANNEL VIDEO AND PHOTO INSTALLATION

Suyeon Yun has expanded her interest in water to desertification, disappearance of water and degradation of land in China. Her new work, photo-video installation, **COMING FOREST** was the result of an expedition to the Kubuqi desert in Inner Mongolia (China) with a group of volunteers who plant trees on the desert in an effort to stop the desertification of the area.



## SUYEON YUN



Suyeon Yun lives and works in Seoul, Korea. She earned her BFA from Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University and MFA from Yale University. Her recent work mostly focused on water, food, and security. Her solo exhibitions include *Water War* (2014), *NEW HAVEN, NO HAVEN* (2009), also participated in many of group exhibitions; *WATER SCAPES\_ Politics of Water* (2014), *Real DMZ Project* (2013), *New York Photo Festival* (2009). She was awarded numerous times among them, *Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture Artist Grant* (2015), *ARKO International Fellowship* (2014), *KT&G Photography Fellowship* (2010), *Alice Kimball English Travel Grant* (2009), *Tierney Fellowship* (2008), and the *7th Daum Prize* (2008).

**Suyeon Yun**, works, which take the aftermath of disasters as their temporal background, reject the dramatic effects espoused by traditional documentary photography and instead take on an everyday, still and even in different character. Her mixing of the positions and perspectives of those who experienced the disasters and the artist observing them shows us that experience of a disaster is something that can never be generalized.

Suyeon Yun first visited Chennai to participate in **WaterBodies**, an Indo-Korean Art Residency focusing on Art and the City. 10 renowned artists - 5 each from India and from Korea, working in tandem with two curators from each country created unique art works, drawing inspiration from the city and local community or through collaborative projects with local artists and citizens. The work produced during the residency was presented as in-situ, performative installations at Spaces in Chennai. The project which included renowned artists from a range of disciplines- Visual Art, Sonic Art, Film, Music, Photography and Art & Technology- aimed to initiate cultural and creative exchanges between Korean and Indian artists and to highlight the potential of the arts in driving or facilitating positive social change.

