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New Museum Curator Eungie Joo Named First Non-Korean National Commissioner for the Korean Pavilion at the 53rd International Venice Biennale

New York, NY...The New Museum is pleased to announce that **Eungie Joo**, Keith Haring Director and Curator of Public Programs has been named the first non-Korean national **commissioner** for the **Korean Pavilion** at the 53rd International Venice Biennale by the **Arts Council Korea** (ARKO). This prestigious appointment recognizes not only Joo's curatorial vision and leadership in championing early career artists, but also her experience forging key international partnerships.

Throughout her career, Joo has worked closely with international artists from the Americas, Asia, and Europe, focusing on new commissions. She has continued this commitment at the New Museum and has developed the institution's unique educational and interpretive programs since joining the staff in 2007. Perhaps most notable among these is the pioneering **Museum as Hub** global partnership, a curatorial/education hybrid with five international partners, including the Insa Art Space in Seoul. As part of the Museum as Hub, Joo has commissioned the yearlong **Night School** project by Anton Vidokle; a residency with My Barbarian; and an important new public installation by Lisa Sigal.

"Eungie's longstanding dedication to forging international relationships that support new and under-recognized talent, as well as her commitment to accessibility and diverse points of view, places her at the forefront of the curatorial field today," said Lisa Phillips, *Toby Devan Lewis Director* of the New Museum.

The Korean Pavilion at the Venice Biennale was established by ARKO, Arts Council Korea, in 1995 and has functioned as a bridgehead for Korea's contemporary art to enter the world stage. ARKO was established in 1973 in accordance with the Culture and Arts Promotion Act of Korea. Its ultimate goals are to raise the quality of cultural life for all Koreans and to provide a vision of a more promising future for Korea. Many of ARKO's programs aim to cultivate the artistic creativity of artists and to promote an appreciation of the arts among the public.

Eungie Joo joined the New Museum in 2007, after her four-year tenure at REDCAT in Los Angeles, as the founding director and curator of the Gallery. As a curator, Joo has worked with Korean artists Choi Jeong Hwa, Beom Kim, Sora Kim, and Gimhongsok, among others. She also commissioned projects by Damián Ortega, Taro Shinoda, and Mark Bradford. Her essay on Haegue Yang will be included in the forthcoming catalogue *Haegue Yang: Assymetric Equality*, to be published by CalArts/REDCAT 2008.

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In addition to her admired curatorial practice, Joo has served as an Instructor and Visiting Artist at the School of Art, California Institute of the Arts. She is on the editorial board of Afterall and has contributed to numerous contemporary art publications. Joo completed a doctorate in Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley in 2002 and a BA in Africana Studies from Vassar College in 1991. She is a board member of the William H. Johnson Foundation and serves on the advisory boards of ICI and Side Street Projects, and was a member of the advisory committee to Douglas Fogle for the 2008 Carnegie International. In 2006, she was the recipient of the Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement.

ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program known for its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new, state-of-the-art building on the Bowery, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas.

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