

## Korean kinetic sculptor U-Ram Choe comes to the John Curtin Gallery

3 February – 2 March 2012



U-Ram Choe, *Urbanus Female*, 2006, Installation View: Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan, Image courtesy of the artist.

The John Curtin Gallery is pleased to announce the Australian premiere of kinetic sculptures from the extraordinary imagination of Korean artist U-Ram Choe.

Choe's artworks inhabit the multiple realms of mythology and science fiction, inviting audiences to unravel narratives exploring notions of creation and evolution through strangely familiar organic forms.

As a highlight of the 2012 Perth International Arts Festival, the celebrated artist's work is on show from 3 February until 2 March, 2012.

Choe crafts beautiful but complex mechanical sculptures that look like futuristic biological organisms.

They are exquisitely-engineered from stainless steel, aluminium and acrylic 'bones' which are animated by miniscule motors (brains and muscle) – all choreographed by microprocessors to create moving forms evocative of otherworldly flora and fauna.

Heat and motion sensors cause some of the works to undulate in the rhythmic motions of the creatures that inspired them.

The works are accompanied by science fiction narratives of their imagined evolutionary histories; machine-creatures that inhabit our atmosphere, benignly feeding off excess electrical energy and reproducing as their parts wear out.

Referencing his 2008 'Urbanus' series of sculptures (inspired by his observations of the 'inexplicable' energy behind metropolitan cities), Choe said he believed there was a lifecycle of some sort in machines.

"They are born, they live their lives, some day they break down or get worn out, and then eventually die. And after they die, they get dismantled and some parts get recycled or reborn so to speak," he said.

John Curtin Gallery Director Chris Malcolm said this was a wonderful opportunity to experience these mesmerizing works for the first time in Australia.

"U-Ram Choe's work will captivate audiences with their exquisite blend of precision engineering, jewel like construction and hypnotically choreographed behavior. They really are amongst the most extraordinary objects I have ever seen."

Born in 1970, U-Ram Choe lives and works in Seoul, Korea. He has had solo exhibitions at The Crow Collection of Asian Art in Dallas, the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, Japan, and bitforms Gallery in New York City. His work has also been exhibited at the Shanghai Biennale, Seoul Museum of Art, Samsung Museum, Sungkok Art Museum, Busan's Metropolitan Art Museum, Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Bologna, Seoul Olympic Art Museum, and Seoul Forest Open Air Sculpture Symposium. Choe's works are in the Crow Collection, Sungkok Art Museum, the Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, and the Manchester Art Gallery.

Ends.....



This is a Perth International Arts Festival event, supported by the Visual Arts Program Partner Wesfarmers Arts.

Editors note:

The John Curtin Gallery, which is located at Curtin University, Bentley, is open Monday to Friday 12pm – 5pm and every Sunday in February 1pm – 4pm. Entry is free. For further information, visit [www.johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au](http://www.johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au), phone 9266 4155 or become a friend on Facebook.

For further information, images, interview and photo opportunities;

Contact Media Liaison Officer Samantha Smith on 08 9266 7347 (Mon – Wed) or 0407 386 687 all other days, email [s.smith@curtin.edu.au](mailto:s.smith@curtin.edu.au).

Links to the works of U-Ram Choe;

<http://www.bitforms.com/u-ram-choe-gallery.html>

<http://vimeo.com/8242796>

<http://thecreatorsproject.com/creators/uram-choe>

