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The Next Big Names? Here Are 5 Rising Artists to Watch From the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea

We toured the grounds of the South Korean fair to bring you this list of emerging stars.

Vivienne Chow, April 7, 2023

Yuko Mohri



Yuko Mohri, I/O (2011-23), on view at Gwangju Biennale. Photo: Vivienne



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Who: Born in Kanagawa in 1980, Mohri is a graduate of the Tokyo University of the Arts and has held solo shows around the world. Her residencies with Asian Cultural Council in New York, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the Camden Arts Centre in London have enlarged her global exposure. Her works are in the collections of Centre Pompidou in Paris, M+ in Hong Kong, and Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. She is based in Tokyo.

Work on show: Installation work I/O (2011-23), on view at the glass pavilion of Horanggasy Artpolygon, one of the off-site venues.

Why you should pay attention: The installation artist has been a regular at biennales around the world since 2017, according to our survey last year, and it is not hard to understand why after seeing her work at Gwangju. I/O, which features a set of kinetic sculptures, is an ongoing series. But the artist has given it a new spin, adapting the site-specific work to a local context. By collecting the almost invisible dust and debris from the floor, and sampling environmental elements such as air flow and humidity, Mohri's work transforms these odd components into a "music score" that is uniquely Gwangju. The artist also links the work to Han Kang's novel The White Book (2016) and the multi-layered history of the city, symbolizing the creation of a "tone of history that was never written." She's expecting to show at the upcoming Art Basel in Switzerland with Mother's Tankstation, with a solo show at gallery's London space slated to open in September.

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