



동두천

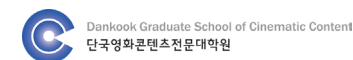
Bloodless

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This project was sponsored by Dankook University Graduate School of Cinematic Content (BK 21 Plus), Venta VR, UCLA Center for the Study of Women, UCLA The Center for Korean Studies, UCLA Institute of American Cultures, UCLA Asian American Studies Center.



VR Sound





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# 동두천

## Bloodless

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A VR Documentary Film by Gina Kim

"Bloodless" is a ten-minute VR film that deals with camp town sex workers for US army stationed in South Korea since the 1950s. The film traces the last living moments of a real-life sex worker who was brutally murdered by a US soldier at the Dongducheon Camptown in South Korea in 1992. Portraying the last hours of her life in the camp town, the VR film transposes a historical and political issue into a personal and concrete experience. This film was shot on location where the crime took place, bringing to light ongoing experiences at the 96 camp towns near or around the US military bases.

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A Crayon Film production, Written and Directed by Gina Kim,  
Produced by Jiyoung Kang and Seonah Kim

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Technical Specs: Method: 360° Virtual Reality Live-Action Shoot (S3D)  
Camera: 8 GoPro HERO4 BLACK

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# Project Information

Production Company:  
Crayon Film

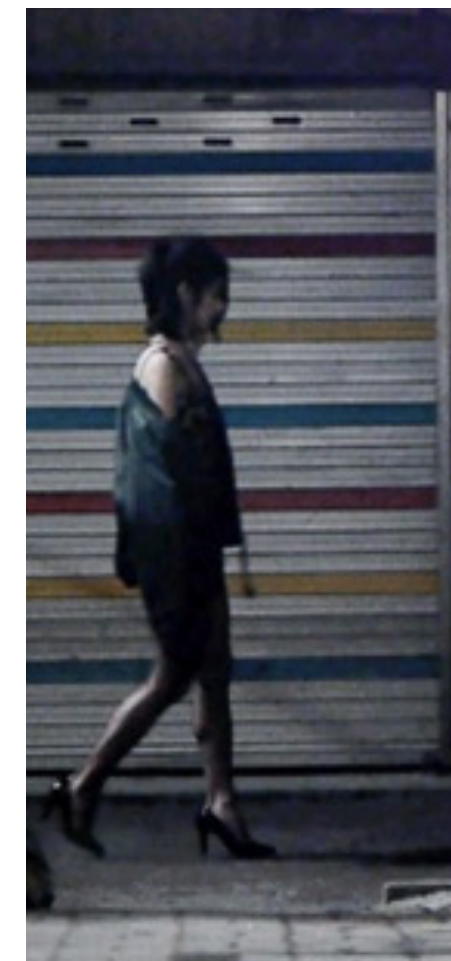
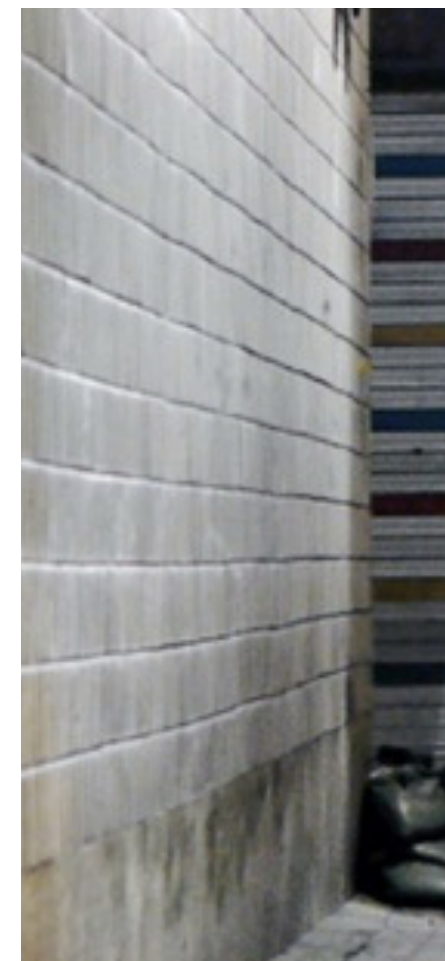
Director: Gina Kim

Producer: Jiyoung Kang,  
Seonah Kim

Project Funding: Dankook  
University Graduate School  
of Cinematic Content BK 21  
Plus, Venta VR, UCLA Center  
for the Study of Women,  
UCLA The Center for Korean  
Studies, UCLA Institute of  
American Cultures, UCLA  
Asian American Studies  
Center

Genre: VR short film (3D, 12  
minutes)

Logline: Based on a true  
story, Bloodless is a VR film  
about the murder of a  
Korean sex worker by a US  
soldier in 1992. Bloodless  
was shot on location at  
Dongducheon camp town  
near Seoul, Korea, where the  
US military has been  
stationed since the 1950s.  
The film follows the victim on  
the night of her murder.



# Treatment

US military bases have occupied as much as 17.7 percent of the habitable land of the entire South Korean peninsula since the Korean War. Their presence produced 96 camp towns near or around these bases that have involved one million women so far. Every day, US soldiers stationed in South Korea commit an average of eight crimes, including murder, assault, and rape. These crimes are mostly directed against the camp town sex workers who live, quite literally, in the space between two countries and outside the protection of laws.

Based on a true story, *Bloodless* is a virtual reality short film about the murder of a sex worker in 1992 committed by a US soldier stationed in Korea. At 1AM on October 28th, 1992, the body of 26-year-old Yun Keum Yi was found at a decrepit house at the Dongducheon camp town. Her cause of death was brain hemorrhage, and her body was found covered in detergent powder to dispose of evidence. Two beer bottles and one cola bottle were found inside her uterus, and an umbrella penetrated 11 inches into her rectum.

Shot on the actual location, the film opens to a decrepit residential neighborhood in Dongducheon near a US military base. Amidst the flashing neon lights, clubs, and bars, a woman takes fragile steps along the streets. She leads the audience into darker and narrower alleyways. Moments later, the audience is now in a shabby motel room. Scattered clothes and traces of violence are all around. The audience realizes that this room belongs to the woman. Over the course of the next three minutes, the audience experiences the space in which the murder took place.

*Bloodless* transforms the controversial issue of crimes by US military personnel into a personal and emotional experience while introducing textual history to the sensory realm of virtual reality.

# Director's Statement

On October 31st, the suspected murderer of Yun Keum Yi was arrested while returning to the base with blood still on his pants and shoes, but the United States Forces in Korea refused to extradite him. Mass protests broke out demanding that the soldier be tried in the Korean court system. I took part in the protests as a freshman in college. We put posters on walls and marched while spreading flyers to civilians. The graphic and disturbing image of the crime scene was printed on each flyer. Every time I saw Yun Keum Yi's brutally mutilated body being endlessly reproduced in posters and flyers, I saw her dignity being once again destroyed.

For 25 years, I have struggled to find a way to make a film about this tragic incident. But I kept coming up against the fact that I could not cinematically represent the story without exploiting the image and thereby reproducing the original violence itself. But with VR, the viewer is no longer a passive spectator, who can take voyeuristic pleasure from a spectacle in front of them (and at a distance). Upon realizing the potential of the VR, I came up with a way to tell the same violent story, without showing and exploiting the image of her. After studying the neighborhood where she lived and worked, obsessively walking in loops around the brothels, mimicking her itinerary on the night of her murder, I determined to have her ghost guide us: to the perfectly preserved dilapidated streets, the club that she met the soldier, and finally the small room she was mutilated and died.

The image on the flyer still haunts me, motivating me to return to these non-sovereign spaces and the many women exiled there whose voices have yet to be heard.

# Creative Team



## Director Gina Kim

Gina Kim's five feature-length films have screened at more than 80 prestigious international film festivals and venues all over the world. *Never Forever* was the first co-production between the US / Korea and theatrically released in France, Korea and the US. *Final Recipe* was wide-released in China over 3,000 theaters. Kim was a jury member at the 66th annual Venice Film Festival where her film *Faces of Seoul* (2009) premiered. Kim taught film theory and production as the first Asian woman to teach at the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University. She is a Professor at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

## Producer Jiyoung Kang

Ji-young Kang earned her doctoral degree at the Pratt Institute in New York for of Theater, Film and Television. computer graphics, for the Interactive Telecommunications Program Institute in New York for of Theater, Film and Television. computer graphics, for the Interactive Telecommunications Program in Korea. She is currently a professor at Dankook University teaching interactive storytelling, and conducts research and provides guidance on virtual reality films. She is also an active media artist, producing several works that incorporate technology with art. Her most notable exhibitions are "Perdue" that was held at the Seoul Arts Center, and "Reveal" held at Sejong Center for Performing Arts. In 2015, she produced a short film using VR technology called *Swing Like A Girl*.

## Producer Seonah Kim

Seonah Kim is currently a professor in the Producing Track of Dankook University's Graduate School of Cinematic Content. The president of Crayon Film, she has developed and co-produced the film *Some Day* directed by Yoon-ki Lee starring Nam-gil Kim and Woo-hee Chun, which will be released early 2017. She has been an active producer for the past three decades, having participated in several successful films such as *Save the Green Planet!*, *One Fine Spring Day*, and *Rikidozan*.



# Stills



# Press Release

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[www.ginakimfilms.com](http://www.ginakimfilms.com)