

MEDIA RELEASE

More than I could ask

Dawn Kim

On View — March 9th, 2024 — April 28th, 2024, 2 — 6pm

Opening Reception — Saturday, March 9th, 2024, 4 — 6pm

NEW YORK, NY (March 9th, 2024) — Penumbra Foundation is pleased to present, *More than I could ask*, Dawn Kim's first solo exhibition in New York City. Sequestered in their everyday lives, Kim's subjects are encountered in their in-between moments at work and rest.

Systems of belief, power, labor, and language are common themes that thread through all of Kim's work. These photographs explore the visual language of portraiture across a broad range of people and places, employing different approaches in form, tone, and genre. Using her large format 4 x 5 inch field camera to make these images over the last three years, the artist writes about her process:

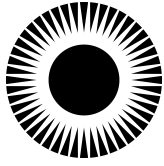
I started by photographing people I know, but I found my companions too accommodating. I think they tried to present themselves to my camera in the ways that they thought that I wanted. I turned to the vagaries of strangers to see what it looks like to closely observe another person unburdened with familiarity.

I want to understand what portraiture can and cannot be. What's the difference between a portrait and a picture of a person? Do portraits need to picture a person? How far back can I walk before a portrait becomes something else?

When I stop a person or group of people to ask if I can photograph them, they often want to know why. I could respond with something about the beauty of the light, or their gait across the street, their matching polos, their job that should be recorded, or the most accurate—that I'd like to try to describe the way I saw them.

Portraiture holds a unique power to depict the inner tension between who one is and who they project to the world. The in-between of the setting up process and making of the portrait creates a state suspension in which the subject's outward character begins to loosen. For Kim, good portraiture captures this subtle yet profound shift that occurs during the brief few minutes given in her encounters. She acknowledges that what she can ask for in that space is limited but that the endeavor of working in portraiture transcends where ordinary language fails.

The gallery hours for this exhibition are Monday through Friday, 2 PM — 6 PM. Admission is free.



About Dawn Kim:

Dawn Kim (b.1989, S. Korea) is an artist who examines everyday complexities. Taking on forms of video, artist's books, and slideshow performance lectures, her work often uses text and image to make visible the systems that have been hidden, forgotten, or overlooked. She has been a fellow at MacDowell, Pioneer Works, ACRE and was the sole-recipient of the St. Elmo Arts Fellowship at the University of Texas in Austin in 2020-21. She will participate in the Brooklyn Darkroom Residency and The Villa Albertine research fellowship in Marfa, Texas. Kim received her BFA in advertising from Art Center College of Design and her MFA in photography from Yale School of Art. She lives and works in New York City with her dog Blueberry Willy.

dawnkim.com

About Penumbra Project Space

The 300 square-foot Project Space offers emerging and mid-career artists a place to present new work. The exhibitions are developed in conjunction with Penumbra's editorial or educational programming.

About Penumbra Foundation

Penumbra Foundation is a non-profit organization that brings together the Art and Science of Photography through education, research, outreach, public and residency programs. Its goal is to be a comprehensive resource for photographers at any level, artists, students, professionals, historians, researchers, conservators and curators. Penumbra specializes in advancing the use of historic and alternative photographic technologies for contemporary image-making.

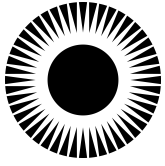
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Penumbra's Project Gallery is supported in part by the **Joy of Giving Something**.

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the Arts**