

RECOLLECTIONS

by Soomin Ham

"Recollections" is a photo essay reflecting on the moments and places that have shaped my journey of self-discovery. The photographs in this show offer a contemplative exploration of the fragments and layers that shape a landscape of dreams, losses, and memories.

This journey begins with my visit to Rajasthan, India in 1992. The timelessness and vastness of its desert expanded my perspective, allowing me to recognize my true passion for photography during such an uncertain point of my life. Since then, photography has become my creative medium for cultivating my voice through the lens.

In 2009, the loss of my mother to depression made me realize how fleeting and fragile life can be. The Cheonan Memorial Park in South Korea, where her final resting place is, became a sanctuary of peace and contemplation. My connection to the past has persisted through visits to cemeteries, where I wander the quiet paths and read the stones, curious about the departed lives.

The Korean Royal Palace "Gyeongbokgung" holds many cherished memories of my childhood, particularly those with friends and family. Once a place of joy and wonder, Gyeongbokgung is now a place for nostalgia and introspection, where I find myself revisiting these joyous memories as I walk along the palace walls today.

The show also incorporates images from two of my previous series — "Sound of Butterfly" and "Dreamscape" — that weave together the exhibition's narratives by reflecting on my mother's life and tracing through moments from my childhood.

"Recollections" has become a visual metaphor for my photographic journey and how it has deepened my understanding of the cycle of life and fading memories. The show invites the viewers to contemplate and reflect on their past, and to create narratives out of their own experiences and memories.