About the cover art  A wintry, almost eerie landscape of gray and purple hues sets the background of Jung Lee’s Bordering North Korea #15 (2008). Taken from a distance, the photograph depicts a town against a mountain range of varying peaks. The body of water in part serves as a boundary between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, South Korea, and China—a border that Jung Lee, who is South Korean, is unable to cross. Juxtaposing melancholic images of nature with phrases drawn from North Korean propaganda, Lee’s series Bordering North Korea (2005–8) conveys what she describes as “the tragic reality of the regime” (from “Abandoned Words in Deserted Places,” the artist statement for her solo exhibition Aporia at ONE AND J. Gallery, Seoul, 2011). Unable to travel to North Korea, Lee can only project and imagine this other place that is both so close and so far away. Her insertion of the text “WE SERVE THE PEOPLE,” in a small white font placed at the center of the photograph, intriguingly does not reflect in the water but, rather, metaphorically blurs a banal postcard scene of serene nature with an impressionistic abstraction of an ideology and nation-state at odds with itself.

Jung Lee is a conceptual photographer based in Seoul, South Korea. She received her MFA from the Royal College of Art and has exhibited her work internationally in Seoul, Hong Kong, Dubai, New York City, London, and Zurich. In 2014, she was a finalist for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize.


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