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### **Rethinking Democracy in South Korea: The Political in Art since 2008**

With the advent of the new conservative administration in 2008 in South Korea, sudden changes in the society called for immediate artistic response: the government's aggressive economic redevelopment policy led to a catastrophic fire during a violent conflict between residents and the police in Seoul in 2009 and took six lives; the artistic freedom and creativity met with censorship and abrupt ending of financial support. Can art resist the politics, or what Jacques Rancière calls the "policing"? Can artistic practices recuperate the political from the policing? In order to articulate today's public discourse on democracy in Korea, this paper will closely examine exhibition and performance practices as critical interventions into the current politics. The case study exhibition "Dream House" directly responds to the fire in 2009. The three months-long performances in the form of a single-person protest reconstructs publicness in the space, the participating artists' witty and playful interventions reflecting their committed search for democracy.