



## *Punishment Project* (2011-2012)

Chan-Hyo Bae, *Existing in Costume – Anne Boleyn, Punishment Project*, C-Print, 102 x 80 cm, 2012.

The main subject of this project is ‘power’ and ‘will to power.’ At the outset, it was ‘punishment’ that I focused on the process of approaching these topics. However, my interest reached the matter of power that punishment is ultimately related to exercising power. In other words, I intend to express that desire for power in the human nature can be shown as a strong prejudice against the difference from other culture. Furthermore, through this work, I want to explore the process that I can deliberate on my existence.

The meaning of punishment is, according to the social common sense, to deprive a criminal of the benefit and protection of the law, because of violating the law or other social regulations. The existence of punishment has been universal in all ages and countries, and I have been blindly interested in it, because I have been curious about what meaning this viewpoint of mine on punishment may have inside my mind.

Additionally, I became interested in the process of how the discussions on power and connecting power and knowledge have been justified, in the atmosphere of post-structuralism. Judging from this context, human religion used to be one of the most important and useful methods for the persistence of power in the western history.

For this reason, I chose a wider domain of ‘power,’ as the main topic of this project, and I intend to examine the matter of punishment as the lower level topic, because I view that punishment may be the most concrete and strong example in which I can recognize and visualize exercising power.

I have maintained my works within the topic of ‘the sense of isolation and prejudice’ for last several years. Through these works, I realized that as an Asian man in the western society, my sense of isolation and the prejudice against me are due to some social factors particularly such as history and education.

Moreover, I could find the human nature restricted by moral pressure, by awakening to the fact that the desire for power as human nature is reflected in the sense of isolation and prejudice. In this context, the meaning of punishment is, from my point of view, the result of the sense of isolation and prejudice which is seen from power structure. Thus, I will begin my ‘punishment project,’ defining power as exclusiveness between the rival subjects in the fixed time and space.

Describing the intention of my work in more concrete sense, this ‘punishment project’ is a relative part between others and me, in which reflects the difference of the way of thinking between the east and the west, and would make me realize my complex in the western society. In fact, I have considered cultural gaps and ethnocentrism, so I want to express some aspects of power which has been related to me, in accordance with power operation.

The main method of visualizing my 'punishment project' is being a power holder. This will be progressed in three steps. Firstly, I choose some power holders in English history. Secondly, as the background of my works, I highlight how these historical power holders made the political conflicts with their rivals and how they prosecuted punishments in order to show their political power and authority. Finally, I describe the opposite emotions between the political power holder and his or her rivals, and maximizing reflecting my point of view in this conflict background. By doing this, I intend to visualize my feeling and sense of isolation and prejudice in the process expressing five political power holders in English history.